

THE
 MONTHLY BULLETIN
 OF THE
 Bureau
 OF THE
 American Republics
 WASHINGTON, U. S. A.

JANUARY, 1896.

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ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The following statistical information is taken from the report of Mr. William Wilson, Chairman of the Mortgage Company of the River Plate, recently made to the stockholders of his company in London :

Notwithstanding a serious decline in the market value of almost all Argentine products, the productive industry of the country has, during the last few years—during years when there were exceptional causes for its contraction—greatly expanded, and it is now rapidly expanding. The expenditure of the years of boom has not all been thrown away; the immigration introduced, the pure-bred cattle and sheep imported, the ports made, and the railways constructed, are to-day helping the progress of the country, and promise, with the return of immigration, with peace and a fairly good government, to make the progress greater and more rapid than the most sanguine in Europe believe. Addressing you here in 1890, I said that it was estimated that there were in the Argentine Republic 9,100 square miles of land under cultivation; to-day it is estimated that there are over 16,000 square miles. Mr. Goodman, an authority on wheat-growing, tells us that, in fourteen years, an import of 177,000 tons of wheat was converted into an export of 1,600,000 tons. There is no such record in any other country. In 1890 wheat-growing first began to assume large proportions. This season 32,000,000 bushels were grown; in 1893, 90,000,000 bushels were produced. The amount of wheat exported in 1894 was 1,600,000 tons, and in 1895, owing to a poor crop, the export was little over 1,000,000 tons. The Argentine Republic

has suddenly taken third place as an exporter of wheat, Russia and the United States having the first and second places, and the wheat there grown was exported to pay when the price of wheat in Europe was lower than it had ever been before. The greater part of the best pastoral and agricultural land in the Argentine Republic lies within a radius of 300 miles from Buenos Ayres, and for wheat, at present, the average distance from station to seaboard is 100 miles, as compared with 1,000 miles in the United States.

Twenty years ago all the sugar consumed in the Argentine Republic was imported. In 1892, 50,000 tons were produced, and, in 1895, 120,000 tons. The excess of production over consumption for 1895 is estimated at 30,000 tons. The maize exported during 1895 was 731,000 tons, the average export for the previous three years being 271,300 tons. The production of liuseed rose from 31,000 tons, in 1890, to 104,000, in 1894, and to 250,740 tons during eleven months of 1895, to November 30. Oats grow well on the Atlantic coast, and will probably be exported this year. The vineyards of the country have been greatly extended, and wine is now made in very large quantities.

I have referred to the increase of agricultural products first, not because these products are the most important, but because the agricultural are the most recently started industries, and the industries that have, on the whole, advanced most rapidly; and my object is to show the progress, not the position, of the country. The numbers of live cattle exported monthly to Brazil and Europe have greatly increased, and this trade promises to become so very important that the herds of the River Plate countries have taken a new and much higher value. The number of live cattle shipped in 1892 was 10,540; the number shipped in 1895 was 120,000. The export of sheep, too, has yearly become greater. The number of live sheep exported in 1892 was 16,379; in 1895, it was 454,000. The

EXPORT OF FROZEN SHEEP

was, in 1883, 17,165 carcasses; in 1894 it was 1,500,000; and for eleven months of 1895 it was 1,742,000. For the year it will probably be 2,000,000. Excellent butter is made in the country, and this promises to become a very important export. There seem to be no reliable statistics of shipments—native newspapers to hand complain of this; but we know that two steamers alone, in the early part of December, brought to Europe 117 tons of butter, and we hear of large contracts for shipments being entered into. A country favored with a fine climate, in which a good cow costing £3 can be kept for 15s. per annum, should be able to compete in the production of butter with any country in the world. When you remember that in the Argentine Republic there are millions of acres of the richest pastoral land, and hundreds of thousands of cows, you can see what an important export butter may become.

NUMBER OF IMMIGRANTS

to the country fell in 1891 to 28,266; it has risen in 1895 to about 60,000; for eleven months to 30th November it was 50,081, and during November alone 10,675 arrived.

PRODUCTION OF BUTTER.

It is stated that the factories for the manufacture of butter and cheese in the province of Buenos Aires produce about 500 tons of butter per month, employing 90 separators and consuming 400,000 liters of milk per day. This does not include the butter produced in the establishments of the city, which may be estimated at 4,000 kilos daily. This latter is consumed entirely by the population.

SHEEP INDUSTRY IN PATAGONIA.

A recent issue of the *South American Journal* gives some particulars as to the sheep industry in Punta Arenas (Tierra del Fuego):

A manager for a French company owning something over 100,000 sheep, with the necessary horses, said that they made 3 fr. (about 60 cents) on every head, clear of all expenses, from the sale of wool alone. The increase of the lambs averaged about 90 per cent. of the ewes, and this was an additional profit.

The long-wooled varieties of sheep are in favor there. The lowest average of wool sheared is said to be 7 lbs. per sheep. A printed table of statistics, which the manager carried, showed that the average yield in 1889 in all Argentina was 4.4 lbs., while that of the United States was exactly that of the lowest yield of his flock, 7 lbs. His range was considered poorer than the average, but it had sustained 2 sheep per hectare (two and a-half acres).

The one disease to which Patagonia sheep are liable is the scab. This is kept under by dipping them in various kinds of baths, the expense for bath running from eighty dollars to ninety dollars gold per year for every 1,000 sheep. The next greatest expense is for the killing of panthers. A common night's work of the panther is the killing of sheep to

the value of one hundred dollars in gold. Every shepherd, therefore, carries a carbine, and must be supplied with all the cartridges he wants. These rifles sell for less money in the Punta Arenas stores than in New York gun shops, but the annual expenses for rifles and cartridges on some ranches run up to hundreds of dollars. Foxes also and a species of wild cat make havoc with the young lambs.

What with hunting down vermin and looking after the sheep to keep them on the range, and to dip them for the scab, the French manager has to employ a man for every 2,500 sheep in his flock. On the whole, his flocks, numbering a little over 100,000 sheep, cost the company 200,000 francs (about \$40,000) per year, while the sale of the last clip yielded 500,000 francs (about 100,000 dollars), and the price was not high. In his judgment it would be a very poor business man who, after starting with a good outfit and 1,000 ewes on the Patagonia range, did not attain an income of 20,000 dollars gold a year at the end of ten years.

AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS.

From the *South American Journal* of January 25th, the following statistics relating to the agricultural interests of the Argentine Republic are taken :

The amount of land under cultivation in the Argentine Republic in 1895 was: Under wheat, 411,116 hectares; maize, 746,614; linseed, 69,043; barley, 29,735; potatoes, 9,795; and alfalfa, 231,031 hectares. The production in 1895 was: Wheat, 575,562,400 kilos; maize, 1,866,535,000 kilos; linseed, 103,564,500 kilos; barley, 47,576,000 kilos; potatoes, 68,663,000 kilos; and alfalfa, 2,200,494,500 kilos. The farmers own 66,820 ploughs, 14,218 harrows, 726 steam threshers, 1,420 reaping machines, 566 steam portable engines, 569 water motors and 547 windmills.

NOTE.—A hectare is equal to $2\frac{1}{2}$ acres; A kilogram is equal to 2.2 pounds.

BRAZIL.

MODIFICATIONS OF TARIFF.

An official publication of the Government of Brazil announces the following modifications in the tariff on importations into that country :

Import duties on articles for domestic consumption to continue as provided in Act No. 265, of December 24, 1894, but duties shall be estimated at the rate of 12 pence per milreis, instead of at 24 pence, as heretofore, and the sur-taxes of 50 and 60 per cent. are suppressed. All duties are combined in one, with the following exceptions :

	Per Kilo.
1. Foreign beer or ale shall pay a duty of.....	\$0.29
2. Liquors, sparkling wines of all kinds, in any kind of package	0.86
3. Gin	0.36
4. Matches, wooden.....	0.77
do. any other kind	1.08
5. Soaps, sapolios and the like, not perfumed.....	0.29
6. Enamel, common or vitrified cobalt, for potters	0.60
7. Salt, coarse.....	0.036
8. Gomma arabica, crude	0.144
9. Tin-plate.....	0.07
10. All oils shall pay by gross weight, weight of container included, and olive oil, which shall be found by official analysis to contain any foreign matter or to be adulterated in any way, shall be confiscated, and the importer fined from \$48 to \$120 by the Customs Inspector.	
11. Wines condemned by the National Laboratory shall be confiscated, and the importer fined as above.	
12. Perfumery....	1.20
13. Sardines in conserve.....	0.24
All other fish and shellfish in conserve ...	0.36

	Per Kilo.
14. Bags or sacks, plain, not specified.....	0.36
15. Bagging (distinction of number of threads being suppressed, as well of plain as of twilled)....	0.216
16. Capsules, confections, granules and pearls, medicinal	7.03
17. Elixirs, liquors, wines, syrups, solutions, medicinal, including Murray's Fluid Magnesia	1.50
18. Pastilles, medicinal, compressed... ..	13.00
19. Pills, boluses, medicinal grains of all sorts.....	14.88
20. Cotton thread, for warp or woof, brown or white. do do do colored.....	0.07 0.096
21. Agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, mechanisms, raw material, dycestuffs, chemical products, and other articles necessary for the use of factories, shall receive a reduction of 30 per cent. on the former duties paid by the same. But importers of such articles, in order to avail themselves of this reduction, must register beforehand in the custom-house, in the proper book. The reduction does not extend, however, to cotton thread nor raw cotton.	
22. Rice, barley, bran, beans, Indian corn, pine lumber, dried beef and kerosene shall be entitled to the same reduction of 30 per cent. on the former duties.	
23. Locomotive and parts of machinery imported for the construction of railways shall pay 50 per cent. less than the rates that may be established for like material in the tariff to be adopted. Neat cattle shall be exempt from duties.	
24. Guano, phosphate of lime, sulphate of ammonia, chloride of potassium, the phosphates in general, nitrate of soda, and phosphated scoria considered as fertilizers, are likewise free from import duty.	

The steamer "Faraday" has arrived at Para from England with a portion of the cable which is to be laid in the Amazon River from Para to Manaos. On board of the steamer is a scientific commission to explore the Amazon River.

During the past year there were shipped from the port of Santos 3,363,533 bags of coffee of the value of \$56,000,000. The total receipts at that port, from July 1st to December 31st of the present crop year, has amounted to 2,491,824 bags.

The customs receipts at Santos, for the year 1895, were, approximately, \$8,000,000, against \$5,300,000 in the year 1894, there being, consequently, an increase of \$2,700,000.

THE AMAZON STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY.

This company has, within the past twelve months, given orders for the building of nine steamers, to be added to their already large fleet plying on the Amazon. One of the new steamers, the "Paes de Carvalho," is finished and is now on her way out from England to Para; the others are rapidly approaching completion, and will, as soon as practicable, be dispatched to their destination to meet the growing demand of the trade on the Amazon River. These new steamers are fitted up to meet all the requirements of comfort and luxury for travel. Their average dimensions are 178 feet over all, 33 feet beam, with a draft of about 8 feet 9 inches, and are classed A1 at Lloyds. It is designed that their speed shall be about 12 miles per hour.

CHILE.

ESTIMATED POPULATION.

An unofficial estimate of the census recently taken shows the population of Chile in 1895 to have been about 3,700,000. The table below gives some of the results as officially returned:

	POPULATION.	
	In 1885.	In 1895.
Iquique.....	15,391	30,000
Viña del Mar.....	4,859	10,000
Quillota.....	9,214	21,000
San Fernando.....	6,959	7,300
Talea.....	23,432	32,022
Chillan.....	20,775	24,250
Concepcion.....	24,180	40,000
Anjeles.....	8,279	11,000
Arauco.....	3,452	3,818
Lebu.....	2,699	2,485
Cañete.....	1,918	2,100
Total.....	121,178	184,075

SHEEP RAISING.

From reports received, it appears that the business of sheep raising in the Magellan territory of the Chilean Republic is being very rapidly developed. Below are given some statistics on this subject:

In 1878 there were only.....	185 sheep.
" 1885 they had increased to.....	40,000 "
" 1888 " "	165,000 "
" 1892 " "	480,000 "
" 1894 " "	700,000 "
" 1895 (estimate)	900,000 "

THE WOLLASTON ISLAND.

From the *South American Journal* of February 1st, the following information regarding the Wollaston Island possessions is obtained :

We have had the pleasure this week of meeting a gentleman who has just returned from the remote and reputedly desolate region, the Wollaston Islands, lying to the south of Tierra del Fuego, and close to the dreaded Cape Horn. He describes the climate to be quite agreeable, though, naturally, it is not quite Italian, but as good at least, as that of the North of Scotland, where thousands are living contentedly. In the valleys the grass grows luxuriantly up to the height of the shoulders of a man, and the snow never lies long on the ground. There is a splendid field there, he says, for cattle-raising, and the Chilian Government, to whom the islands belong, will grant 100 acres of land to every one who settles there. Our informant is organizing a colony and will be glad to hear from any one who would like to join.

Besides cattle raising, there are other industries where a more rapid fortune can be made, namely, sealing and whaling. The Chilian Government has been protecting the seals for the past four years, and no killing will be allowed until next year, consequently the seals are in abundance, and, when killing is resumed, there will be a great harvest for those who are first in the field. Probably £10,000 a year could be netted from this source alone. An exclusive concession for sealing has been granted to our informant. Then the whale fishing presents great opportunities, especially now when the Greenland waters are so barren, and whalebone has gone up to about the price of ivory, say, £1,700 per ton. To crown all, gold is said to exist in large quantities on the islands, also guano. Here is a chance for merchant adventurers, if there are any of the old sort left.

Another point of great importance is that a very commodious harbor of refuge has been discovered on Wollaston Island, which will serve also as a coaling station. The Chilian Government is to be congratulated upon these discoveries in this hitherto little known territory."

OFFICIAL STATISTICS—VALPARAISO CUSTOM-
HOUSE.

The revenue derived from this Custom-house in 1895 was as below :

	Paper.	Gold.
January	\$ 783,427 19	\$228,179 00
February	815,661 11	595,911 37
March	819,205 15	323,613 92
April	805,067 18	331,928 04
May	790,086 75	333,040 39
June	896,869 63	375,236 78
July	891,140 16	374,819 15
August	713,144 53	299,393 09
September	818,559 60	341,032 90
October	1,038,898 82	432,579 16
November	965,040 49	405,250 86
December	934,890 53	395,991 18
	\$10,266,991 14	\$4,236,885 85
Total in 1895 \$14,503,876 99		
Total in 1894 10,754,078 89		
Difference in favor of 1895 \$ 3,749,798 10		

POPULATION OF VALPARAISO.

The official census returns give to the Department of Valparaiso a population of 138,359.

The returns in 1885 gave a population, with ten per cent. added for omissions, of 115,147. This gives an increase in the decennial of 23,212, but if ten per cent. be added to the returns of 1895, as will probably be done, the increase will be 37,048, or 32.17 per cent. over 1885. Deducting the population of Juan Fernandez and Viña del Mar, the City of Valparaiso will have a population of 140,036, always calculating upon the additional ten per cent.

COLOMBIA.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The communication of Consul-General Vifquain, published below, showing the unsatisfactory condition of the trade of the United States with the Republic of Colombia, and suggesting a plan for its improvement, will be of interest to American manufacturers :

CONSULATE-GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.

PANAMA, February 3d, 1896.

*Honorable Edwin F. Uhl,**Assistant Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

SIR :

A great many letters are received at this consulate for information relating to the needs of the people here as regards American manufactures, and I answer such letters as occasion requires ; but, notwithstanding, American imports here do not seem to increase satisfactorily, and the letters are still coming. Evidently, it is impossible to improve the situation by means of correspondence.

I do not know whether it is owing to the bad reputation of the climate here or to some other reason ; but commercial agents for American houses are not seen here. Of course, agents speaking both Spanish and French are required. I have seen English and French agents here whose expenses, including salary and traveling allowances, amount to \$12,000 per annum, the salary alone being \$6,000. It seems a large expense, to be sure, and yet if the English and French manufacturers can afford it, is there one good reason why Americans cannot ? I take it that the climate and the great scarcity of American agents speaking both Spanish and French are the main reasons why the American manufacturers, who are so very enterprising, do not send representatives here.

In view of this I beg to suggest the following : I recommend that several manufacturers combine in establishing at this place a *House of Samples*. In that establishment let them make as good a display of their different manufactures as it is possible to make ; something that will attract attention at all times—an Exposition, so to speak, where people

will flock from curiosity. People of surrounding countries will also visit, and when they find what they require, a cable can be sent to the parent house in the States, by the agent in charge, and within two weeks the goods can be landed here, as three steamers leave New York each month for the Isthmus. This seems to me to be as prompt a manner to do the business, and the best plan that can be devised to materially improve the export trade of the States with this section of the world. Moreover, it is certainly the cheapest method, inasmuch as the whole expense per annum is not likely to exceed one-half the sum now paid to commercial agents, granting that Americans pay as much as their English and French competitors.

There is no sample house in Panama. Will the United States manufacturers secure the prestige of inaugurating one? I truly believe it would prove a good investment. Of course the house should be in charge of an American speaking both the Spanish and French languages, and possessed at the same time of the truly American enterprise and pride.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

VICTOR VIFQUAIN,

Consul General.

STEAMSHIP SERVICE.

[From the *Panama Star & Herald.*]

The "New Orleans, Belize and Central America Steamship Co." is the name of a steamship line which has inaugurated a fortnightly service between Colon, Boas del Toro and New Orleans. The company owns a fleet of steamers including the Breakwater, Stillwater, Clearwater, City of Dallas, Wanderer and Foxhall. The first steamer will be the Foxhall, a vessel of thirteen knots, now at Colon. The "Planters Line" is the name the new line goes by at Boas del Toro, since the main object of the enterprising firm of Macbeea Bros., of New Orleans, is to boom the banana planting industry, by engaging to purchase different classes of fruit offered at special rates, during the period of one year at least.

COSTA RICA.

BANANA CULTURE.

The following is the substance of a communication upon the subject of banana culture in Costa Rica, recently received by Senor Calvo, Charge d' Affaires of that country :

SAN JOSE, COSTA RICA, January 21, 1896.

The statistics from the Atlantic export city of Limon, in Costa Rica, show that during the ten years beginning with 1886 to the end of 1895, there was exported to the United States of America a total of nearly ten million bunches (racimos) green bananas. These shipments have during the same time put into circulation an amount of gold equal to their value that otherwise never would have reached the Costa Rican banana farmers, exporters, and railway and steamship lines. Public attention has thus been directed to the questions relating to banana culture.

In this circular-letter attention will be paid only to the exportation of Costa Rican bananas, because they excel in size and aroma. The reason for this superiority lays simply in the exceedingly rich alluvial soil in the tropical valleys of Costa Rica.

As opinions regarding the results of banana culture differ widely, this office has consulted several banana growers of experience on the subject, and the results are therefore to be traced—not to official statements or to theoretical illustrations—but to the banana growers' own figures and declarations.

It must also be understood that this short treatise has only to do with the "banana," and not with the "platano," a fruit that, although of more value than the banana, has never been an object for export. Platanos (plantains) serve as national bread, even where flour and tortillas are in use. This fruit is greatly superior to the banana for feeding hogs and hens. In the household, the platano is an object of economy, but the banana is largely an article of taste and luxury. The above distinction is noteworthy, because, even in Consular Reports, the two classes of fruit may be confounded, and by erroneous application lead to gross mistakes.

The "Oficina de Estadística" has based this circular-letter upon the following questions, answered by some of the most prominent banana planters in Costa Rica.

QUESTIONS.

1. Cost of clearing land per manzana for banana culture?
2. Cost of banana plants, suckers, per manzana?
3. Cost of digging holes and planting?
4. Cleaning per year?
5. Cost of cutting the bunches—*racimos*?
6. Freight expenses from the plantation to the railroad station or vessel?
How many bunches will a horse carry?
7. Amount of new land to be planted every year to sustain the regular trade?
8. Cost of buildings for manager and laborers?
9. Average weight and number of mercantile bunches during one year per manzana?
10. How many hands required to count bunches classed No. 1, 2 and 3?
11. What is done with unmerchantable bunches?
12. What number of peones is necessary to manage a 100-manzanas banana plantation?
13. How are the peons paid? How many hours daily do they work, and is the full number employed only under the cuttings, or every day the year round?
14. The total expenses per year on a well-conducted banana plantation of 100 manzanas, without any combination with raising cattle or hogs?
15. The yearly net proceeds of bananas on a plantation as above mentioned?

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

Banana bunches are very bulky and easily exposed to damage during a long transport. The plantations for exportation are therefore made along the lines of railway and near the points of exportation.

A new plantation, or a series of smaller plantations, have combined in order to give an export steamer two loads per month, that the fruit may not ripen on the stem and thereby be unfit for export. The extension of the territory to be kept under culture depends, consequently, upon the capacity of the export steamer. A regular banana steamer will carry upwards of 13,000 bunches. Touching the port of loading twice a month, it will require at least 26,000 bunches per month, or about 300,000 bunches per year. One manzana will average about 300 bunches for export per year; consequently about 1,000 manzanas are needed for delivering the required 300,000 bunches per year. Banana producers situated in a new export place should make their calculations accordingly, in order to

avoid the partial or total loss, if their combined plantations are not sufficiently large to give a steamer regular employment.

The reports received at this office from the several banana growers do not, with the exception of that of the Matina Company, state the amount of capital actually invested, probably because the interest upon the investment added to the yearly running expenses would in some cases bring the net income down to cover only the running expenses. The interest on capital invested is therefore not included in the following yearly estimates.

The details for the cultivation of bananas will be found in the special guides for "Tropical Agriculture". Here we have only to do with the financial branch of banana culture as an article of export. *All calculations are made in Costa Rican currency—\$1.00 American gold being equal to \$2.50 Costa Rican paper currency.*

QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3 may conveniently be treated jointly as covering the primary works to be executed under all circumstances when starting a plantation.

On the plantations along Bocas del Toro and the islands, 325 plants are put in per manzana. The suckers are generally obtained without cost, except transportation. The whole work of clearing, digging holes and planting amounts to near \$50 per manzana. The report shows that Bocas del Toro now has no tracts for large continuous plantations of 100 manzanas. There are plenty of patches of 10, 20, 30 manzanas suited to banana culture, each patch being separated by intervening swamps or mountains. They are often operated separately by gangs of four or more negroes, who club together and go in their canoes or small launches to the export-steamers.

In Santa Clara (the railroad valley) the above enumerated expenses are quoted all the way from \$15 to \$40 per manzana. On middling good land 196 plants are put in, with 7 x 7 varas distance. Digging holes and planting costs from 5 cents to 7 cents per plant, or about \$13.00 per manzana. From the reports received it may be calculated, that the expenses, in making a plantation, included in questions Nos. 1, 2 and 3, will reach about \$40 per manzana.

No. 4. The reports recommend three cleanings per year during the first two years. They all agree pretty nearly in the amount of expenses, namely: First cleaning, \$10.00; second, \$8.00; third, \$8.00 during the first year; and first cleaning \$8.00, second, \$6.00, third \$4.00 during the second year. The average cost of cleanings per manzana during the first two years may be estimated at \$45.00

No. 5 and 6. Peons and contractors are not paid separately for cutting the bunches. The peones work either for monthly salary, or the

owner of the plantation pays from five to ten cents for every saleable bunch cut and carried to the nearest railroad platform. Generally the owner supplies free pack horses. *Haciendas* of from 100 to 150 manzanas require from ten to eighteen pack horses. The average weight of a No. 1 bunch from Bocas del Toro is from fifty to sixty pounds; from Santa Clara not under fifty pounds, and a report from banana river planters (*comarca de Limon*) sets the average weight as high as eighty pounds per bunch. An average horse will, according to the weight, carry on each trip from four to five bunches. Where the loading and unloading is made by boats or lighters, the freight expense cannot be fixed, because the bunches have to be handled several times. Great care and economy must be practiced in freighting, because a carrying distance to the railroad platform of several miles may absorb all profits, no matter how productive the plantation and how economically conducted.

No. 7. In order to keep the number of merchantable bunches somewhat uniform from year to year, more or less additional planting is necessary. The area of the new plantation depends entirely upon the fertility of the soil. Some land will yield merchantable crops only during five years, others during ten or more years, as in the Matina and Rio banana districts. The additional clearing and planting is generally done by the regular gangs of peones at intervals, when the regular work is not pressing. A plantation of the first-named character would require one-sixth part additional planting each year. In one of the reports upon 125 manzanas of middling fertility, the owner states that, as a rule, his peones, during spare time, add ten manzanas new land every year to the old plantation.

No. 8. A common ranch, with palm-leaf roof and clay floor, sufficient for peones and their boss, will cost from \$80 to \$100, besides the building materials taken on the farm. A regular two-story lumber house, with four rooms and iron roof, comes to about \$1,000. Sheds for horses and cattle are seldom used in the tropics.

No. 9. Enthusiastic writers have quoted 1,000 bunches per manzana as the yearly merchantable crop. According to the several reports received at this office, 2,400 bunches per year out of 100 manzanas has satisfied the growers, that is 240 bunches per manzana or 20 bunches per month. Forty bunches per month is considered an enormous crop the third year, when a majority of the young suckers from the mother stem have developed into fruit-bearing stems.

No. 10. The buyer and exporter assort the bananas into three classes. No. 1 bunch counts from eight to nine hands, No. 2 as low as six hands, No. 3 under six hands. Each hand counts about ten fingers, or separate fruits, making a No. 1 bunch count about ninety bananas. Class No. 1 has always the preference; and of No. 2, it takes two bunches in the banana trade to equal one No. 1. In the export lot, the buyers do not accept more than one-third proportion of No. 2. In Santa Clara Valley, No. 3 is

entirely excluded from the market; but in Bocas del Toro a fractional part of No. 3 has been accepted during periods of brisk competition.

No. 11. The bulk of unmerchantable bunches are left to rot, because of their limited use, distilling being prohibited, the Government having the exclusive monopoly of manufacturing liquors.

No. 12. On a 120-manzanas plantation from 12 to 16 peons are kept, who are employed to do all sorts of labor on the farm, including the annual additional planting.

No. 13. As a rule, the laborer is paid \$1.60 per day, boarding himself, with the services of a free cook for the whole gang. The cook is paid \$30 per month with board, or \$40 per month, paying his own board. The laborers work ten hours per day and are employed every day, the year around. On some farms the laborers are paid as high as ten cents, and free horses, for every merchantable bunch at the railroad platform. This is high pay, but it is claimed as the only way to hold the negro gangs always ready to work, week days and feast days, as a telegram demanding immediate cutting may come from Limon at any time. A contract for the delivery of a certain number of bunches per month to the exporter must be strictly filled. It is better, therefore, to pay the laborers a rather high price than to lose part of the crop and break the contract. Where sub-contractors on the plantations carry out the combined work of cultivation, cutting and hauling to the railroad, the planters claim that a bunch costs them twenty cents, and that the surplus obtained is clear profit. Out of the twenty cents they claim that fifteen cents goes to pay the laborers, leaving five cents as the contractors' part. The mandadores or managers are paid in different ways; as a rule they receive \$150 per month, without board. In some instances he has no fixed salary, but is given an interest in the prosperity of the plantation. He receives five cents for each bunch actually delivered, sold and paid for; also he is allowed on his own account to keep a grocery and general store on the plantation. It is difficult to get hold of a good mandador, and the small net proceeds upon many banana farms may be traced to the manager's lack of experience or to his error in considering himself a gentleman farmer.

No. 14. In the foregoing the reasons are given why the yearly interest upon the invested capital is left out of the calculation. The general statement in the reports goes to show that, if bananas can be cultivated and delivered at the cost of from twenty cents to twenty-five cents per bunch, then the planter receiving fifty cents per bunch clears at least twenty-five cents. Upon a sale of 24,000 bunches per year he ought to clear \$6,000 per 100 manzanas. In the following banana estimates the secondary branches of cattle and hog raising are intentionally left out, because this office has already issued a separate letter upon cattle-raising and in regard to the raising for pork and lard. This branch of husbandry will cut no figure in the estimate.

REPORT FROM A 150 MANZANAS BANANA PLANTATION.

Expenses—20 peons, @ \$1.60 per day.....	\$ 9,600
Manager, per year.....	1,500
Cook, @ \$40 per month.....	480
Wear and tear on horses and implements.....	120
Repairs on houses and fences.....	300
Total expenses.....	<u>\$12,000</u>
Income—Last year's sales 36,000 bunches @ 52c. per bunch	18,720
Net profit.....	<u>\$ 6,720</u>

REPORT FROM A 125 MANZANAS BANANA PLANTATION.

Expenses—16 peons @ \$480 per year.....	\$ 7,680
Manager's salary, 5 cts. per bunch sold, 22,168 bunches.....	1,110
Cook @ \$30 per month, without board.....	360
Wear and tear on 12 horses and saddles.....	120
Repairs on houses and fences.....	200
Total expenses.....	<u>\$ 9,470</u>
Income—Last year 22,168 bunches sold.....	10,845
Net profit.....	<u>\$ 1,375</u>

The planter further states in his report that it is impossible to lay down a rule for the net income from his plantation. There are years in which the cash profit dwindles to almost nothing, and the only visible gain seems to consist in the pastures laid out on abandoned banana fields.

OPINIONS FROM A MANAGER OF A 100 MANZANAS BANANA PLANTATION.

Expenses—16 peons @ \$480 per year.....	\$ 7,680
Manager's salary per year.....	1,800
Cook's salary \$360 and board—\$180 per year..	540
Wear and tear on 18 horses and pack-saddles.	180
Yearly repairs on fences and houses.....	100
Total expenses.....	<u>\$10,300</u>
Income—Highest average number of bunches sold from 100 manzanas: say 240 bunches per manzana=2,400 bunches. Of this number 16,000 No. 1 sold at 52c.=8,320; 8,000 No. 2 at 30c.=2,400. Total.....	10,720
Net profit.....	<u>\$ 420</u>

Remark.—This comparatively insignificant result of an investment of \$10,300 seems susceptible of great improvement by economizing the expenses. For instance, the extension of the farm—100 manzanas—hardly requires more than 12 peons, making a saving of \$1,920. The manager's salary (\$1,800), when calculated upon the number of bunches sold (24,000), is too high. With a salary, say, of 5 cents per bunch, he would receive \$1,200, making a saving of \$600. These two items would create an additional net profit to the farm of some \$2,500.

Before this office proceeds to the conclusions to be drawn in a general way from the above answers, it is necessary to make a distinction between banana farms lying inside of a circle (line or zone not farther from the place of delivery) than to always reward their owners with net proceeds equal or superior to the regular interest—12 per cent—on their money without work, and banana farms situated outside this line, and therefore requiring augmented freight expenses, often cutting considerably into the net proceeds.

To make this clear this office will partly make use of the reports published by the "Compañía Bananera de Matina," covering their business from July 20, 1894, to July 26, 1895.

This company has invested, in all, \$260,000 in planting about 1,035 manzanas with bananas, in buildings and in steamers, launches and a railroad track four miles long, fully equipped for bringing their bananas to the delivery platforms four miles distant from their plantations—consequently outside the half-mile or zone (as they call it) considered the limit for easy delivery. The plantations delivered during the last business year 357,262 bunches, which number makes 345 bunches per manzana, a proof that the land is in excellent condition and well attended to.

The Company found that each bunch delivered on the platform of the main track cost them 18 cents gold, or 45 cents Costa-Rica currency. Of this about 22 cents was for production, and 23 cents on the above named transportation. There had consequently been an additional expense of 23 cents more than the planters pay, distant only from half to one mile from the place of delivery. Both received the same viz. 52 cents, from the exporter. To remedy this loss by the extra transportation, the exporter, it seems, agreed to increase the sales price, so the company received \$244,461.58, Costa-Rican currency, which makes nearly 68 cents instead of 52 cents per bunch, or 16 cents more than other planters. Still this arrangement did not bring the company on the same footing as the planters next to the main track. One of the reasons for this may have been, that the company's railroad and steamers had no return freight to carry and therefore had to pay their crews on steamers and railroad out of the banana freight alone.

As the exporter was not inclined to increase his offer, the company adopted a new expedient, namely, to drop the sale to buyers in Costa

Rica, and instead of this to carry on in a direct way a combined planting, export and sale business. In quoting the probable consequences of this operation this letter has no design to criticise, but simply approximately to give coming companies an idea of the drift and consequences of a combined plantation and exportation concern.

According to the new arrangement (as quoted in the company's pamphlet) with sub-contractors, railroad and ocean steamers, the anticipated result may be stated as follows :

Expenses—Every bunch delivered by the plantation (contractors at the Matina river).....	\$0.20
Freight from the Matina river landings to Limon @ 25 cts. gold, during the good sales season, and 18 cts. gold during the less favorable season, say an average freight of 22 cts. in gold.....	0.55
Steamship freight from Limon to New York will average, say 18 cts. in gold.....	0.45
Sale, collection and loss.....	0.10
Total Expenses.....	\$1.30

Income—The lowest average price per bunch in New York is claimed to have been about 80 cts. gold....

	2.00
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Leaving a net profit in Costa Rican currency \$.70

During the poor-sale season in New York the prices may drop so low as to occasionally cause a loss, but during the months of March, April, May and June every year the average price per bunch in New York and New Orleans will reach one dollar to one dollar and twenty cents gold, with no increased costs except of commission sale. At this price the banana business proves a real bonanza.

Any increase in net proceeds by a decrease of cultivation and freight expenses can hardly be expected in the near future.

CONCLUSIONS.

The rule, that business thrives best under the personal supervision of the owner, applies in its full force to banana farming. It is of little use to have the expenses of cultivation, cutting and handling within the zone cut down to twenty cents per bunch, when the subsequent handling and the general farm administration burdens the bunch with additional twenty cents, and even more. Still, allowance must be made for the different work that always will accompany farming; and the owners agree that a bunch ready for shipment and hauled from the banana zone

to the platform has cost them, including all farm work and manager's salary, thirty-five cents. Any more spent indicates a defect in the management.

Suppose that a planter can sell from a 100-manzanas
farm, per year, 24,000 bunches at 52 cents. \$12,480
That the total expense at 35 cents a bunch makes . . . 8,400

Then he ought to be amply satisfied with a net profit of \$ 4,080

This sum being the yearly gain upon an investment of \$8,400.

In proportion to the distance a plantation lays outside the zone, the hauling expenses will of course cut into the above quoted proceeds, since improved means of transportation will always increase what economists call the productivity of the adjacent land.

The owners generally engaged in other business leave their plantations to mandadores to be conducted according to their greater or less supposed ability. It would seem a better plan to rent to the manager a plantation as above mentioned, binding him to pay the owner from year to year some \$4,000. The manager's activity is then stimulated, as being interested in the financial success of the plantation.

Every branch of agriculture has its drawbacks, and banana farming forms no exception to the rule. The principal ones are herein mentioned to guide the inexperienced planter against mistakes and their ruinous effects :

1. Plantations over eight hundred feet above sea level will only exceptionally produce bunches fit for export.
2. Marshy ground should be avoided; moist but dry surface with alluvial mouldy soil is preferable.
3. Be prepared to meet the running expenses for some thirteen months. The stem nine months old puts out flower, and in four months more the fruit is sufficiently ripe for export.
4. Tartousas (earth rats) are the common enemies of all roots. It is said that the planting of castor bean trees among the banana rows serves to check considerably these pests. Generally the damage done to bananas is inconsiderable, but the cacao plants, put out under bananas for the sake of obtaining shade, suffer terribly by the underground work of the rats.
5. Before investing in a plantation one should have a full season's experience in working with the peons.
6. Locate your plantation in the zone, or as near the same as possible.
7. Select acclimatized laborers, and by steadily watching them prevent them from stealing your time, because nearly every peon will try to deceive or rob you if you cling to your hammock. The laboring class in

the tropical lowlands is principally composed of negroes. Guilty or innocent of a theft, you can very seldom point out the guilty one, because they are all black-faced and confront your inquiries without coloring up. As the Spaniard says: "No tienen sangre en su cara."

8. A strife is always going on between the planters and the exporter in regard to the assortment and classification of bananas—whether they are to be counted No. 1, No. 2, or rejected. For instance: in one of the reports the plantation delivered 27,600 bunches, out of which number 22,168 were accepted and paid for, and 5,432 were rejected. This and similar losses are sufficient to account for the system now followed by several planters—paying the peons for every bunch actually accepted by the exporter, and not for the cutting and hauling as day-work.

9. Upon the whole, it is apparent that the conductors of banana plantations, whether as owners or as hired help, should be persons of experience and trust if the planter would succeed. To employ "Jacks-of-all-trade" as managers of banana and cattle farms will frequently bring the proprietor's purse to grief.

NOTICE.

The following Circular Treatises, issued by the Departamento Nacional de Estadística de Costa Rica, are also printed in "The Monthly Bulletin" of the Bureau of the American Republics, Washington, U. S. A.

1. Cacao Farming during sixteen years.
2. Dairy and Stock Farming in Costa Rica.
3. Coffee Culture in Costa Rica.
4. Report upon Banana Culture in Costa Rica.

The above-named Bureau will, upon application, send the separate Monthly Bulletin containing any of the quoted, on receipt of ten cents per copy.

The Director General de Estadística has also made an arrangement with the Costa Rica Consuls in foreign countries to have these articles translated into their several native languages.

By applying to said Consuls these treatises, in translation, will be delivered gratis.

NOTE.—A manzana is equal to 1½ acres.

ECUADOR.

A change in the Ecuadorian Cabinet, according to information transmitted February 4, 1896, has been announced as follows :

Minister of Public Instruction—	Don Carlos Freire.
Minister of the Treasury—	Don Serafin Wither.
Minister of the Interior—	Don José Maria Carbó.
Minister of War and of the Navy—	Gen. Don Juan Francisco Morales.

GUATEMALA.

THE NORTHERN RAILWAY.

The Northern Railway of Guatemala is reported to have been completed as far inland as Gualan, distant about eighty miles from Port Barrios, and one hundred and twenty miles from Guatemala City. The contract for the next section, Gualan to Zacapa, twenty-one miles, has been given to Mr. Sylvanus Miller, an American citizen, who has constructed all the previous work. The sum to be paid to Mr. Miller for this section is \$1,850,000 Guatemalan currency (about \$925,000 United States currency). Mr. Miller, on his part, being required to deposit in the Bank of Guatemala the sum of \$150,000, (Guatemalan money) and to find a guarantor who shall be responsible to the extent of his entire property, as security for the proper execution of the work.

The contract money is to be paid to Mr. Miller in the following manner:

- 1st \$100,000 on the signing of the contract and the carrying out of the stipulations above mentioned, by Mr. Miller.
- 2nd. On the completion of every tenth part of the work \$150,000—in all \$1,500,000—and on completion and verification of the work \$250,000.

It is thought that this section will be completed in the early months of the present year, which will bring Guatemala City within one hundred miles of the nearest station of the Northern Railway.

REVENUE OF GUATEMALA.

El Guatemalteco, the official journal of the Government, has recently published a financial statement giving a comparison of the revenues received from export and import duties at the custom-house of the city of Guatemala and throughout the whole Republic for the quarter ending March 30, 1895, with the same period in 1894. From these statements it appears that the customs revenue of the Republic for the quarter ending March 30, 1895, amounted to \$2,275,099, Guatemalan currency, or an increase of \$1,019,672 over the amount for the same period of 1894.

RAILWAY CONCESSIONS.

The following concessions for the construction of railways have been granted:

I. Between Guatemala City, Quesaltenango and Antigua (electricity to be the motive power), to Mr. Enrique Neutze, a German resident in the city of Guatemala.

II. Between the station of Obero (on the Central Railway) and the port of Istapa, to Mr. P. W. Chamberlain, an American subject residing in Guatemala.

III. Between the station of Esequintla (on the Central Railway) and San José Barbarena, to Mr. Luis G. Schlessinger, a German subject of Guatemala.

IV. Between the port of Oeos and Santa Catarina or Nahuatan, to Mr. Enrique Neutze.

In all of the above concessions it is stipulated that the rails be of steel and shall weigh 26 lbs. to the lineal metre; the sleepers to be of steel (in the electric railway to Antigua, of iron), or of wood of the best quality, and to be placed at distances of 25 to 30 inches. The ballast of the road to be of a thickness of at least 15 centimetres.

The water courses (culverts) are to be constructed in masonry of brick or stone, or by the use of tubes.

The bridges to be of iron, or steel and wood combined, in the substructure, and with pieces of stone, iron or steel.

COFFEE IN GUATEMALA.

The *Bulletin du Musée Commercial* publishes an extract from a report of M. E. Capouillez, Treasurer of the Government, in which he says that coffee constitutes almost the sole article of export from Guatemala. Thus, in 1894, out of a total value of 20,325,000 piastres of goods exported, the value of coffee alone reached 19,406,000 piastres. The export trade is carried on through the ports of Champerico, San José, Ocos and Livingston, and the principal countries of destination are Germany (342,000 quintals in 1894), United States (130,000 quintals) and England (108,000 quintals). Coffee pays an export duty of 2 piastres, one of which is to be paid in gold (gold piastre—5 francs). In 1894 a sum of 1,141,533 piastres was thus raised, plus 549,910 piastres in addition, the exchange on the part payable in gold, making altogether a total of 1,736,443 piastres. The exportation of coffee from Guatemala has not increased much during the past five years. Want of labor is the principal reason of this. The Indian only works under necessity, and the experiments with Kanaka and Japanese labor have not yielded good results.

CENTRAL AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

A construction company has made a contract with the Government of Guatemala for holding a Central American exposition at Guatemala City in the early part of 1897. It is understood that this company has purchased the buildings of

the late Bordeaux Exposition, paying therefor 1,000,000 francs delivered at the port of San José, whence they will be conveyed to Guatemala City at the expense of the Government. The company is one of limited liability and it is claimed it has a capital of 300,000 dollars to be applied to the purposes of the scheme. In addition to the usual industrial exposition the scope of the contract permits the holding of various amusements.

In connection with the exposition a tramway on the Deauville system is being constructed for a length of 3,800 meters in the outskirts of the city.

CONTRACT FOR NEW LOAN.

From *El Guatemalteco* (official organ) it is learned that the Government of Guatemala has raised a new loan of £658,500 for the purpose of carrying forward the work of construction of the Northern Railway, and for the service of the four per cent. External Debt.

The contract for this loan is with Messrs. Muller and Thompson of Hamburg, and the interest is to be ten per cent. guaranteed on the revenues of the Northern Railway, together with a tax of twenty per cent. in gold now paid by mercantile houses as import dues.

MEXICO.

PRICE OF GOVERNMENT LANDS.

In accordance with the law of March 26, 1894, the Chief Executive has fixed the price of government lands for the fiscal year 1896-1897 as follows:

STATE.	PRICE PER HECTARE.
Aguascalientes.....	\$2 25
Campeche.....	1 50
Coahuila.....	1 00
Colima.....	2 00
Chiapas.....	2 00
Chihuahua.....	1 00
Durango.....	1 00
Guanajuato.....	3 35
Guerrero.....	1 10
Hidalgo.....	2 25
Jalisco.....	2 25
Mexico.....	3 35
Michoacan.....	2 25
Morelos.....	4 50
Nuevo Leon.....	1 00
Oaxaca.....	1 10
Puebla.....	3 35
Queretaro.....	3 35
San Luis Potosi.....	2 25
Sinaloa.....	1 00
Sonora.....	1 00
Tabasco.....	2 50
Tamaulipas.....	1 00
Tlaxcala.....	2 25
Veracruz.....	2 50
Yucatan.....	1 80
Zacatecas.....	2 25
Federal District.....	5 60
Tepic Territory.....	2 25
Lower California.....	50

NOTE.—The hectare equals 2½ acres.

NICARAGUA.

COFFEE CROP OF 1895.

Official information received from Nicaragua is to the effect that, owing to protracted drought along the Pacific coast, the yield of the present growing crop of coffee, as estimated, will not exceed more than one-half of the usual annual production. It is believed that it will not much exceed 100,000 quintals throughout the entire Republic. The crops of corn, beans and sugar have, from the same cause, been also cut short. To meet this condition the government did, for a time, suspend the import duty on the above named articles, resulting in large importations of these necessaries of life and also of wheat flour. These importations were entirely from the Pacific coast States of California, Oregon and Washington. It is thought that the experiment of using American flour, brought about by these unfortunate circumstances existing in Nicaragua, will result in the continued using of American wheat flour to a much larger extent than hitherto. Notwithstanding the shortness of the crops mentioned, the people of the country have not been subjected to any serious suffering. This is largely owing to the handsome profits ensuing from coffee raising and the previous prosperous condition of the people.

BLUEFIELDS, NIC., Enero 12, de 1896.

Senor:—Participo a Ud. que esta Gobernación é Intendencia ha dipuesto colocar en el punto más apropósito de la entrada al Bluff de esta ciudad, un faro que servirá para distinguir este lugar a una distancia de 10 a 12 millas en noche clara.

También se colocarán otros faros ; uno en Corn-Island y otro en Cabo de Gracias a Díos. Mas tarde se fijarán otros en distintos lugares en este

Litoral Atlántico, los que servirán de mucha utilidad y beneficio al marino de alta mar.

Un faro será colocado en el Bluff y otro en Corn-Island, dentro el término de tres meses desde la fecha de la presente.

Suplico que Ud. se servirá comunicar estas disposiciones al público y principalmente al comercio de esa ciudad para su conocimiento y la inteligencia marítima

De Ud. atento seguro servidor :

El Gobernador E Intendente.

JUAN PABLO REYES, S.

[TRANSLATION.]

BLUEFIELDS, NICARAGUA, Jan. 12, 1896.

SIR :—You are informed that this Government has ordered the erection of a lighthouse at the most suitable point near the entrance to the Bluff of this city, which can be seen on a clear night at a distance of from ten to twelve miles.

Other lighthouses will also be erected as follows : One on Corn Island and another on Cape Gracias á Dios. Later, others will be placed at distant locations on the Atlantic shore, which will be of much use and benefit to shippers.

A lighthouse will be erected on the Bluff and another on Corn Island within three months from the date of this communication.

I request that you communicate this information to the public, and especially to the merchants of your city, for their shipping interests.

I am, etc.,

JUAN PABLO REYES, S.

Governor and Intendente.

The new Nicaraguan Cabinet, according to information transmitted February 4, 1896, is as follows :

Minister of the Interior and of the

Treasury—

Minister of Foreign Affairs—

Minister of War—

Minister of Public Works—

Don Francisco Baca.

Don José Madriz.

General Don Francisco Guerrero.

Don Leopoldo Ramirez.

OPENING OF CONGRESS.

In a despatch to the Department of State, Honorable Lewis Baker, Minister to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, makes the following review of the Message of President Zelaya, delivered to Congress, and the ceremonies incident to the occasion, on January 1st :

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES,
MANAGUA, NICARAGUA, January 4, 1896.

*To the Honorable Richard Olney,
Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.*

SIR :—On the invitation of the President of this Republic, I attended the ceremony of the opening of Congress, on the evening of January 1st. This body is composed of thirty-five members, and its sessions usually last from three to five months. The country is divided into thirteen departments, and the members of Congress are apportioned among these in proportion to their respective populations.

At the inauguration of this body on the 1st instant, President Zelaya read his message to the assemblage. It is a short, business-like document, in which the author reviews the events of the past year in which this country was concerned. He dwells with much evident pride upon three features of his administration, viz : The re-establishment and considerable improvement of the public schools, which had been closed by his predecessor ; the progress made in the building of railroads and telegraphs by the Government ; and the great betterment of the financial condition of the country and its credit abroad.

The President states that when he assumed power, there was a large deficit in the National Treasury and the country was with limited credit at home or abroad. During his incumbency he has paid of the foreign debt, \$379,379.20, and on the domestic debt \$2,157,446.63, and has in the Treasury \$713,179.69.

Referring to these figures, he says :

"At this rate of payments, inside of three years the Republic will be free of all debt."

But it is not proposed to keep on extinguishing the debt so rapidly. The domestic debt is now small, and the foreign debt amounts to but £285,000. This latter bears but four per cent. interest, and has twenty years to run.

With some of the surplus income the president proposes to build a railroad from Lake Nicaragua to Rama, there to connect with ocean steamers running to the United States and Europe.

This work was inaugurated last July, and the message says :

" This is one of the greatest works that will be carried on in Nicaragua ; and the day when it is finished our country will see its doors opened to universal commerce, and the unlimited richness thus developed will add to the strength and welfare of our country. On this account, the administration over which I preside is resolved firmly to use all the means necessary to bring about the completion of this important work."

Continuing, he says : " It has been a lamentable error to have set aside the great highway that nature has given us to connect ourselves with the Atlantic Ocean, so that it is now nearly lost ; and to mend part of this great mistake the railroad to Rama will bring us into immediate contact with the world and which will give us the material possession of that rich part of the Atlantic Coast in which the Nicaraguans have so many interests. But this does not mean to say that we ought to leave the river San Juan alone. We are obliged to do everything in our power to reconstruct that principle artery of the commerce and the most valuable and beautiful possession nature has given us."

This is the only reference made to the canal concession in the Message. * * * * *

LEWIS BAKER, *Minister.*

DISCHARGING CARGO IN SAN JUAN DEL NORTE.

[From advance sheets United States Consular Reports for March, 1896.]

Under date of December 3, 1895, Consul O'Hara reports as follows relating to discharging of cargo in San Juan del Norte :

Since the loss of the tug Coburg, in June, 1895, there has been no tug in this harbor. The Coburg was owned by The Nicaragua Mail Steam Navigation and Trading Company. This company has had a new tug built in the United States, and it is said that the tug will be here sometime during this month. When the Coburg was in commission, steamships arriving at this port anchored about two miles from the mouth of the San Juan River, and their freight was discharged on lighters, which were towed into harbor by the Coburg. The local merchants had no particular complaint to make of the lighterage charges. Since June 18, vessels having large cargoes for San Juan del Norte have discharged the same at either Bluefields or Port Limon, and the cost of getting freight to this

place has been as follows, the rates being given in United States currency :

Flour per half barrel.....	\$ 0.30
Kerosene, per box of 10 gallons.....	.30
Lumber, per 1,000 feet.....	10.50
Brick, per 1,000.....	10.50
Beer, per 6 dozen pints.....	.45
Chairs, per half dozen.....	3.00
Miscellaneous freight, per ton.....	7.00

The Nicaragua Mail Steam Navigation and Trading Company owns a small steamship of light draft, and since the loss of the Coburg this vessel has been employed in carrying San Juan del Norte freight from Bluefields and Port Limon to the mouth of the Colorado River, the vessel being able to cross the bar and enter the river. The freight has been discharged at a warehouse at the mouth of the river and has thence been carried by river steamers to San Juan del Norte. The local merchants have complained of the rates charged since June 18, and two local importers, viz., H. F. Bingham and E. L. D'Souza & Bro., have ordered a new tug which will be here from the United States in January. According to the books of The Nicaragua Mail Steam Navigation and Trading Company the lighterage charges on all goods landed in San Juan del Norte during the last thirteen months, including goods destined for the interior of the republic, amount to \$14,500.

Under date of December 26, Consul O'Hara reports the arrival at San Juan del Norte of the steam tug Rosita, mentioned in the foregoing report, and adds :

The tug was built in the United States, is constructed of steel, has two propellers, is 71.2 feet in length, has a beam of 18.2 feet and a tonnage of 57.32, and has a draft, when loaded, of from 3½ to 4 feet. A register was issued at Philadelphia, November 30, 1895, showing Albert Thieriot, of New York city, to be the sole owner of the Rosita, but the tug was built for and is owned by F. A. Pallas, who has resided here for twenty years and is now engaged in business at this place under the name of The Nicaragua Mail Steam Navigation and Trading Company. Mr. Pallas is an Italian subject.

PERU.

IMPORT DUTIES—YEAR 1895-96.

The duties on foreign goods imported into Peru are estimated ad valorem, the valuation being established by legislative action of the Peruvian Congress. A few articles, however, are subject to specific duties.

The monetary unit of the Peruvian currency is the sol, of 100 centavos, whose nominal value in United States currency is 96 cents; but which is estimated at present, by the Director of the United States Mint, at about 48 cents. The metrical system of weights is used in the country.

General instructions for the application of the tariff:

1. By gross weight is meant the weight of the package with all the receptacles and lesser packages contained in it.

2. Unless otherwise expressed, the weight shall always be considered as net.

3. The weight of goods of one kind only shall be regarded as gross or net, according to the requirements of the present tariff, no special declaration in that respect being necessary.

4. In the collection of duties on goods, which in the present tariff are appraised on gross weight, but which are imported in the same package with other goods subject to a different appraisal, the following rules shall be observed:

(a) The weight of goods enumerated in Sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall be increased by ten per cent., boards and wrappers included, and they shall pay the duty required by the highest appraisal applicable to the case.

(b) With respect to articles enumerated in the other Sections, the weight of same, wrappers included, shall be increased by fifteen per cent.

5. Articles imported in trunks, being of a single kind and dutiable by gross weight, shall be subject to regulations provided for those imported in cases or boxes; but when of different kinds and dutiable by gross weight, rule No. 4 shall be applied. In all cases the trunks shall pay duty separately.

6. Articles imported whose size, weight or measure are greater or less than those specified in the tariff, and which, consequently, have no determined valuation, shall be dutiable according to their class and quality.

7. Articles dutiable according to special appraisal, and those not specified in the present tariff, shall be dutiable according to the price of such articles in quantity, in the bonded warehouses.

PERU.

DERECHOS DE IMPORTACIÓN.

(Año fiscal de 1895-96.)

Los derechos de importación á que están sujetas las mercaderías extranjeras que se importan en el Perú se cobran *ad valorem*, conforme á una tarifa de avalúos sancionada legislativamente por el Congreso Nacional. Hay, sin embargo, algunos artículos que están gravados por derechos específicos.

La unidad monetaria de la República peruana es el sol, de 100 centavos, cuyo valor nominal en la moneda corriente de los Estados Unidos es 96 centavos. Ahora, sin embargo, según la apreciación del Director de las Casas de Moneda de los Estados Unidos, su valor efectivo es próximamente 48 centavos.

El sistema métrico decimal es el adoptado en el país para la designación de los pesos.

Las siguientes son las reglas promulgadas para la aplicación de la tarifa.

1a. Por peso bruto se entiende el peso del fardo ó paquete con todos los receptáculos y paquetes mas pequeños contenidos en él.

2a. Como otra cosa no se haya dispuesto se entenderá siempre que el peso es neto.

3a. El peso de los artículos de una sola clase se considerará como bruto ó neto según lo que disponga la Tarifa, sin que se necesite para ello declaración especial de ninguna especie.

4a. En el caso de que un mismo fardo ó paquete contenga mercancías gravadas con derechos que deban computarse con arreglo al peso bruto, y otras que estén sujetas á otra computación se observarán las siguientes reglas para la determinación de lo que debe pagarse por los artículos comprendidos en la primea clase :

(a) Cuando se trate de artículos comprendidos en las secciones 1a, 2a, 3a, y 4a, de la Tarifa, se aumentará el peso, incluyendo tablas, cartones y envolturas, en un 10 por ciento, y se calcularán los derechos con arreglo á la tarifa mas elevada aplicable al caso.

(b) Cuando se trate de artículos enumerados en otras secciones de la Tarifa, el aumento que se haga en el peso, incluyendo las cubiertas y envolturas será 15 por ciento.

5a. Los artículos que se importen en baules, que sean todos de una misma clase y sujetas á derechos cobrables con arreglo al peso bruto, se regirán por las mismas reglas establecidas para el caso en que la importación se verifique en cajas. Cuando los artículos contenidos en el baúl, sean de diferentes clases, sujetas todas sin embargo á derechos cobrables conforme al peso bruto, se aplicará la regla 4a. En todo caso de importación en baules, estos pagarán separadamente los derechos que les estén designados.

6a. Los artículos cuyo tamaño, peso ó medida difieran en mas ó en menos de los especificados en la Tarifa, y que por consiguiente no tienen una valuación determinada, pagarán derechos conforme á su clase y calidad.

7a. Los artículos sujetos á un aforo especial y los que no estén especificados en la Tarifa serán valados tomando por base el precio mayor en los Almacenes del Gobierno.

PERÚ.

DIREITOS DE IMPORTAÇÃO.

(Anno fiscal de 1895-96.)

As mercadorias de origem estrangeira que se importam ao Perú são sujeitas a direitos ad valorem, sendo a avaliação estabelecida por legislação do Congresso, com excepção de alguns artigos que pagam direitos específicos.

A unidade monetaria do Perú é o sol de 100 centavos. O systema legal de pesos e medidas é o metrico.

Indicações para a applicação da Tarifa :

1. Por peso bruto deve-se entender o peso do volume com todos os receptaculos e envolturos menores contidos n'elle.

2. A menos que não se declare de outra maneira, o peso liquido deve-se entender.

3. O peso de mercadorias de uma especie só deve-se considerar como bruto ou liquido, conforme as disposições da presente tarifa, não sendo necessaria uma declaração especial a este respeito.

4. Para a arreeadação dos direitos, quando mercadorias, que pela presente tarifa deviam pagar por peso bruto, vierem no mesmo volume com outras sujeitas a uma avaliação differente, deve-se obsevar o regulamento seguinte :

(a) Será augmentado por dez por cento o peso das mercadorias designadas nas secções 1, 2, 3 e 4, inclusive as taboalhãs e envoltorios, e as mesmas mercadorias pagarão os direitos que exigir a avaliação maior indicado para o caso.

(b) Quanto aos artigos mencionados nas outras secções, o peso, inclusive os envoltorios, será augmentado com quinze por cento.

5. Artigos que vierem em bnhús, sendo de uma especie só e sujeitas a pagar direitos por peso bruto, ficarão sujeitas ao regulamento estabelecido para os que se importarem em caixas ; mas sendo de qualidades differentes, pagarão conforme as disposições da regra 4, e em todo o caso os bnhús devem pagar direitos separadamente.

6. Artigos de tamanho, peso ou dimensões maiores do que os especificados nesta tarifa, e que, por consequente, não tiverem avaliação determinada, pagarão os direitos que correspondam a sua classe e qualidade.

7. As mercadorias sujeitas a direitos segundo uma avaliação especial, e as não especificadas nesta tarifa, serão avaliadas tomando por base o preço por grosso de semelhantes artigos nos armazens aduaneiros.

PERU.

SALT MONOPOLY.

Under date of Lima, January 18th, Honorable J. A. McKenzie, Minister to Peru, advises the Department of State of the promulgation of a national decree, dated 11th of January, 1896, creating a monopoly of the manufacture and sale of salt in that Republic. The following is the text of the law :

Whereas, The raising of the necessary funds for the ransom of the Provinces of Tacna and Arica is of undelayable urgency, the Congress of the Republic of Peru has passed the following law :

ARTICLE 1. Salt is declared a monopoly throughout the territory of the Republic, and consequently the importation and exportation of this article are prohibited from the date of the promulgation of the law to everyone excepting the State.

ART. 2. Neither will the sale of salt for home consumption be permitted to anyone but the State, from the moment the offices referred to in Article 5 are established.

ART. 3. After the promulgation of this law, no salt-mines, salt-forming lands, salt deposits, nor salt-water wells can be taken up (claimed) within the territory of Peru.

ART. 4. The State will purchase from the owners of salt works in operation the produce yielded by the latter at prices to be opportunely fixed by a special decree, on the basis of twenty per cent. advance on the prime cost, as a profit to be allowed to the said owners.

ART. 5. The State will sell the salt intended for home consumption and that intended for exportation, and will establish the respective offices in all the departmental and provincial capitals, and such other places as it may deem convenient.

ART. 6. The selling price of salt will be fixed by the Executive power, which will consider such industries as may be affected by the imports, and are deserving of State protection, as also the cost of transportation from the producing to the consuming districts.

ART. 7. The State will pay to corporations which are actually deserving an income from salt-producing lands a sum equal to that at present enjoyed by them, always providing they continue working the same.

ART. 8. It will also make equitable arrangements for the indemnifying of leaseholders of salt-producing lands for the loss of the profits during the term of their respective contracts, to the extent of 20 per cent. of the rents paid by them, unless they elect to continue working the same for their own account, and sell the yield to the State on the terms fixed by Article 4.

ART. 9. The executive power will establish the necessary rules and regulations for the carrying out of this law. To this end it is authorized to impose fines to the amount of 20 per cent. per kilogramme on all salt taken from delinquents, in addition to the confiscation of the same, unless the guilty party or parties be relieved from the criminal responsibility incurred by them on account of the contraband trade in which they are engaged.

ART. 10. The Government will opportunely order such measures to be taken as shall compel holders of salt to present an exact inventory of their stocks of both native and foreign salt stored in their depots, warehouses and places of sale. These stocks will be bought by the State for cash at an advance of 10 per cent. upon the cost to the holder. The Government will also purchase salt in transit and intended for importation, as also that which by virtue of contracts is intended for exportation, on the same terms as above stated.

ART. 11. If in the opinion of the Government the establishing of the monopoly should present difficulties, this law authorizes it to establish a salt tax, both on the salt consumed in the country and on salt intended for exportation, to which end it may establish the necessary regulations.

ART. 12. The Executive will give an account of the use made by it of this authorization before the next ordinary Legislature, presenting a special and detailed memorial of everything relating to this branch, and if by virtue of the establishing of this monopoly a contract relating to the same be made, it cannot be extended over a term exceeding two years dating from January 1st, 1896. Neither will it be permitted to auction the administration of the tax.

ART. 13. The yield of the monopoly or tax created by this law shall be solely and exclusively devoted to the ransom of Tacna and Arica.

PERU.

ESTANCO DE LA SAL.

Con fecha 18 de Enero último, el Señor J. A. McKenzie, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en el Perú, puso en conocimiento del Departamento de Estado, que por ley aprobada el día 11 del mismo mes, el Gobierno de la República había determinado estancar la fabricación y venta de la sal en todo el territorio de la nación. El texto de la ley, acompañado á la comunicación antedicha, es como sigue:

El Congreso de la República Peruana—Considerando:

Que es de inaplazable urgencia crear los fondos necesarios para el rescate de las provincias de Tacna y Arica.

Ha dado la ley siguiente:

ARTICULO 1º. Estáncase la sal en el territorio de la República y, en su consecuencia, quedan prohibidas, desde la promulgación de la presente ley, la importación y exportación de este artículo, por toda otra persona que no sea el Estado.

ART. 2º. Tampoco será permitida la venta de la sal para el consumo interior, sino por el Fisco, desde que se hallen establecidas las oficinas á que se refiere el artículo 5º de esta ley.

ART. 3º. Desde la promulgación de la presente ley no serán denunciabiles las minas, criaderos, yacimientos de sal y pozos de agua salada en el territorio peruano.

ART. 4º. El Estado comprará la sal de aslinas explotadas por particulares á los precios que se fijarán oportunamente por decreto especial, tomando por base el costo de producción, con más hasta un veinte por ciento, como beneficio para el explotador.

ART. 5º. El Estado venderá la sal para el consumo y la exportación, es tableciendo para lo primero las oficinas respectivas en todas las capitales de departamento y provincia y demás poblaciones que juzgue conveniente.

ART. 6º. Los precios de venta de la sal serán fijados por el Poder Ejecutivo, teniendo en cuenta las condiciones de las industrias á las que puede afectar el impuesto y que son acreedoras á la protección del

Estado; y el costo de transporte de la sal de los lugares de producción á los de consumo.

ART. 7º. El Estado pagará á las corporaciones que hoy perciben renta proveniente de salinas, una cantidad igual á la que hoy reciben, siempre que reasuma la explotación de éstas.

ART. 8º. Hará igualmente con los arrendatarios de las salinas arreglos equitativos para indemnizarles el lucro cesante en el período de sus contratos, fijándose como base de la indemnización, hasta un veinte por ciento de la suma que paguen por merced conductiva, á menos que prefieran continuar la explotación por su cuenta, vendiendo sus productos al Estado, conforme al artículo 4º de esta ley.

ART. 9º. El Poder Ejecutivo dictará el reglamento respectivo, con el objeto de asegurar y vigilar el cumplimiento de esta ley. Al efecto queda autorizado para imponer multas hasta veinte centavos por kilogramo de sal tomada á los contraventores, además de la pérdida de la mercadería, y sin perjuicio de la responsabilidad criminal por el contrabando sorprendido.

ART. 10º. El Gobierno dictará las medidas oportunas para que los tenedores de la sal presenten nota exacta de las existencias que tengan, tanto de la nacional como de la extranjera, en sus depósitos, almacenes y lugares de venta. Estas existencias serán compradas por el Estado, pagándolas al contado á precio de costo, más un diez por ciento como utilidad para el tenedor. Igualmente comprará bajo las mismas condiciones la sal que se encuentre en camino, destinada á la importación así como la que deba exportarse en cumplimiento de contratos ajustados.

ART. 11º. Si la implantación del estanco ofrece dificultades á juicio del Gobierno, queda este autorizado por la presente ley para fijar un derecho á la sal, que se consuma ó exporte, dictado para este fin los reglamentos que fuesen necesarios.

ART. 12º. El Ejecutivo dará cuenta á la próxima legislatura ordinaria del uso que hiciere de esta autorización, presentado una memoria especial y detallada de todo lo concerniente á este ramo, y si, en virtud del establecimiento del estanco, celebrase algún contrato sobre él, no podrá extenderlo por mayor plazo que el de dos años, á partir del 1º de Enero de 1896. Tampoco le será permitido subastar la administración del impuesto.

ART. 13º. El producto del Estanco ó contribución creada por esta ley se invertirá única y exclusivamente en el rescate de Tacna y Arica.

PERÚ.

MONOPOLIO DO SAL.

O Senhor J. A. McKenzie, Ministro dos Estados Unidos no Perú, em data de 1º de Janeiro de 1876, participa ao seu Governo a informação de ter o Governo de aquelle paiz promulgado um decreto, declarando ser monopolio do Estado a fabricação e venda do sal no territorio da mesma Republica. Eis aqui a traducção do referido decreto:

O Congresso da Republica do Perú—

Consideraudo que é de urgencia inadiavel o levantamento de fundos para o resgate das Provincias de Tacna e Arica.

Decretou a lei seguinte :

ART. 1. Declara-se monopolio do Estado a fabricação e venda do sal pelo territorio inteiro da Republica. Fica, por conseguinte, prohibida toda a exportação do mesmo artigo, desde a data da promulgação desta lei, a toda a pessoa que não esteja pelo Governo autorisada para esse fim.

ART. 2. O Governo da Republica reserva exclusivamente para si a venda do sal para o consumo domestico, desde o estabelcemento das repartições referidas no artigo 5.

ART. 3. Desde a promulgação da presente lei, fica prohibida a occupação ou exploração de novas terras salinas, minas, poços ou camadas de sal, por toda a exteusão da Republica.

ART. 4. O Estado comprará as salinas e fabricas de sal pertencentes a empresas ou particulares, pagando aos proprietarios de ellas a quantia que em tempo opportuuo será fixada por um decreto especial, tomando por base o custo original, com mais 20 por cento por conta de lucro.

ART. 5. O sal será vendido pelo Governo, tauto o destinado para o consumo domestico, como para a exportação; e depositorios serão estabelecidos nas capitaes dos Departamentos e Provincias, e nos outros lugares onde se julgar conveniente.

ART. 6. O preço de venda do sal será fixado pelo Poder Executivo, tomando em consideração as industrias interessadas na importação de aquelle genero, e que merecem ser protegidas pelo Estado; tanto como o custo do transporte entre os districtos productores e os consumidores do mesmo.

ART. 7. As empresas gozando de uma reuda legitima proveniente das salinas, receberão do Governo uma quautia egual á renda actual, contando que continuarem a exploração das mesmas.

ART. 8. O estado tomará tambem as medidas que forem justas e necessarias para indemnizar os arrendatarios de salinas pela perda dos seus lucros durante o prazo dos seus respectivos contractos, podendo a compensação ser até vinte por cento da reuda paga por elles, a menos que não preferam continuar seus trabalhos por sua propria conta, vendendo seu producto ao Estado, nas coudições fixadas pelo artigo 4.

ART. 9. O Poder Executivo estabelecerá o regulamento necessario para levar a effeito as disposições desta lei; e para este fim fica autorizado para a imposição de multas até a importancia de vinte por cento por kilogramma, por todo o sal que se encontrar em posse de delinquentes perante a presente lei; a meos que aos culpados não lhes seja relevada a responsabilidade em que tiverem incorrido por motivo do contrabando de que estiverem accusados.

ART. 10. O Governo tomará opportunamente as medidas necessarias para obrigar os possuidores de sal a dar um inventorio exacto das quantidades de sal, quer de proveniencia estrangeira, quer de produção domestica, que houverem nos seus depositos e armazeus. O Governo comprará aquellas quantidades por dinheiro de contado, pagando aos possuidores o custo do genero com mais dez por cento. O Governo tambem comprará todo o sal que se achar em transitio e destinado para a importação; e aquelle que, em virtude de contracto, estiver destinado á exportação, estabelecendo par esse fim o regulamento que for necessario.

ART. 11. Si na opinião do Governo o estabelecimento deste monopolio encontrar difficuldades serias e imprevistas, fica por esta lei autorizado para impôr uma taxa ao sal; quer ao destinado para o consumo domestico, quer para a exportação, estabelecendo o regulamento necessario para esse fim.

ART. 12. O Poder Executivo dará conta ao Congresso proximo a se reunir do uso que tiver feito dessa autorização, submettendo uma relação especial e detalhada de tudo quanto se houver dado em relação a este assumpto; e si, em virtude do estabelecimento do monopolio de que se trata, o dito Poder Executivo tiver feito um contracto referente ao mesmo, o dito contracto não poderá ficar em vigor alem do prazo de dous annos contados do primeiro dia de Janeiro de 1896, nem será permitido arrendar por leilão publico a administração do imposto.

ART. 13. As reudas proveuintes do exercicio deste monopolio, ou da taxa autorizada por esta lei, serão applicadas unica e exclusivamente ao resgate de Tacna e Arica.

UNITED STATES.—FOREIGN MAILS.

The Postal Department has made a contract with the "Red D Line" of steamships for the conveyance of mails from New York to La Guayra and Curacao, at the rate of \$1.00 per mile; and with the "New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company" for the conveyance of mails from New York to Havana, and from New York to Tuxpan and intermediate ports at the rate of \$1.00 per mile.

PUERTO RICO.

A NEW CURRENCY.

The *Gaceta de Madrid* (official organ) of the 9th of December contains a royal decree creating a new form of currency for the colony of Puerto Rico. The conditions of the decree, as published in the Board of Trade Journal, are as follows:

A special coinage will be issued of Spanish dollars, corresponding exactly to the five-peseta piece at present in use. At the proper time a law will be introduced into the Cortes authorizing the circulation of this coinage in Spain.

Gold coins from the national mint, and those which circulate in the Spanish dominions from foreign mints, will be a legal tender in Porto Rico with a premium of 20 per cent. over its nominal value.

The foreign coinage at present circulating in Porto Rico will be at once called in and melted down for recoinage, and coins of the legal currency corresponding to that circulating in the peninsula will be given in exchange, and the necessary amount of bronze coinage will also be introduced.

Mexican dollars will be called in at the rate of 95 per cent. of their nominal value, or 95 per cent. of the new coinage will be given for each Mexican dollar. The notes created by the law of August 17th will come into use simultaneously with the new coinage at its full legal value of one dollar. The exchange will take place at various places in the island fixed by the Governor-General six days after the publication of the decree in the island, and it will continue during eight days. During the four following days there will be exchanges at the central offices in the capital at the same rate of 95 cents to the dollar, if presented in quantities of not less than 120 dollars; half of the money given in exchange will be in the new coinage and half in the notes before mentioned.

After the periods thus fixed Mexican dollars will not have legal circulation. They will only be admitted at the State depositories at the rate of 55 per cent. for 90 days after the exchange has been closed at San Juan de Porto Rico.

The notes referred to will be redeemed as soon as the necessary delay in issuing the new coinage admits of it. It will be carried out at the full nominal value of one dollar for each note and the Government reserves the right of withdrawing the notes from circulation, and of giving silver in exchange immediately after giving ten days' notice, and the operation shall take place in the capital during fifteen days. The circulation of the notes is not to continue for more than three months from the date on which the calling in of Mexican dollars at San Juan de Porto Rico has been accomplished, if the number of Mexican dollars in Porto Rico does not exceed 10,000,000.

The Government will place in circulation in Porto Rico gold coinage representing the surplus resulting from the recoinage of the Mexican dollars after paying all expenses connected therewith. These coins will be issued by the State depositories (*cajas de Estado*) in the proportion and from a date fixed by the Government.

SANTO DOMINGO.

THE BANANA INDUSTRY.

In an article on the above subject a recent number of the *South American Journal*, speaking of the possibilities of banana culture in the islands of the West Indies, contains the following interesting statement regarding Santo Domingo :

In our opinion, however, by far the best opportunities for the investment of a large capital in this industry are offered by the island of Santo Domingo.

This island lies within five days' steam of New York, but a rapid line of steamers could reduce the time to less than four days. Land can be obtained at nominal prices, the climate and soil are admirably adapted for banana cultivation, and the harbor of Samaná Bay forms one of the largest and finest in the world, and is surrounded by soil of unexampled fertility. A railway, built by a Scotch company, is already in operation between the port of Sanches, (Samaná Bay) and La Vega, and it is intended to extend it to Santiago. Another railway, promoted by an American syndicate, is also being built from Puerto Plata to Santiago, and a portion of it is already (1893) open for traffic.

All that is required to make the northern portion of Santo Domingo an ideal country for banana planting is a weekly line of steamers to the principal American ports. There are already several steamers a month between the north coast of Santo Domingo and the United States, but the dates of sailing are too irregular to be relied on. In view of the perishable nature of the fruit, frequent and regular sailings are necessary to obtain the best results, although we believe even under present conditions, banana growing would be a paying investment.

On looking at a map of the West Indies it will be found that the principal mountain ranges (as exemplified in Jamaica, Santo Domingo, Puerto Rico and Southern Cuba) run from east to west. On the northern slope of these mountains, exposed more directly to the influence of the north-east trades, the rainfall is very much greater than on the southern slope, and it is on the north side of the ranges that nearly all the large banana plantations are situated, for the fruit requires a rich moist soil.

The cultivation of the banana is very simple, and there is probably no fruit which gives such a quick return. Nine months after the suckers are planted in the ground, the bunches are ready for cutting, and there-after three, or even four, crops a year may be obtained. A rich virgin

soil as that of Santo Domingo may be cropped for many years without requiring the use of fertilizers. We have often wondered why this island (more favored by nature than any other in the West Indies, and more accessible to American and European markets) should have been so much neglected. American capitalists, however, are awaking to its numerous advantages, and are already commencing to develop its vast resources.

The capital required for the establishment of a banana plantation is not large. In the West Indies £500 or less has been found sufficient to commence operations, but £1,000 would be advisable in the case of anyone without considerable local knowledge.

There are many varieties of the banana cultivated in tropical America, varying in size from the musk-flavored specimens smaller than one's little finger, and known in Mexico as *ciento en boca*, to others of nearly a foot in length.

The by-products of the banana plant are numerous. The fruit can be dried and preserved like figs, or reduced to a sugary powder; they also yield, by distillation, a kind of brandy, and the stem and leaves are used in the manufacture of paper.

The plantain, a species of banana, yields a fruit much larger than the banana, but too coarse to be eaten raw. It is, however, eaten either boiled, roasted or fried, as a vegetable. It is from another variety, the Manilla plantain (*Musa Textilis*), that the fibre known as Manilla hemp is obtained; this plant could also be cultivated in the West Indies, where the conditions of soil and climate are the same as in the Phillipine Islands, where it is indigenous.

SUGAR BAGS.

In a recent despatch Consul Grimke advises the Department of State that the use of American-made bags for the transportation of sugar in the Republic of Santo Domingo is being replaced by those made in Calcutta, and imported either directly through Europe or in bond via the United States. Consul Grimke gives as a reason for this, that so much inferior material is used in the American-manufactured bag as to make it unsuited for the transportation of so heavy a product as sugar.

Notwithstanding the fact that the American bags, when filled with sugar, are admitted into the United States free of duty, and a tax is charged on Calcutta-made bags, the exporters from Santo Domingo find it to their advantage to use the latter bag.

URUGUAY.

MODIFICATION OF IMPORT DUTIES.

Consul Edgar Schramm informs the Department of State, under date of January 15, ultimo, from Montevideo, of the following changes in the import duties of Uruguay:

Plows and parts of same.....	5 per cent.
Wire up to No. 14.....	5 "
Machines of all kinds, for industrial purposes, and parts thereof.....	5 "
Machines and implements, for agricultural pur- poses, and parts thereof.....	5 "
Twine for binders and harvesters.....	5 "
Hemp and jute, raw.....	5 "
Wicking for candles.....	5 "
Boxes of wood knocked down..	25 "
Posts of all kinds for fences....	10 "
Bottles, empty.....	15 "
Chlorate of Potash.....	5 "
Soda single or double.....	5 "
Dynamite.....	20 "

The articles enumerated above have hitherto been on the free list.

URUGUAY.

MODIFICACIONES DEL ARANCEL DE ADUANAS.

Según informe enviado al Departamento de Estado, con fecha 15 de Enero último, por el Señor Edgar Schramm, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Montevideo, el Arancel de Aduanas de la República Oriental del Uruguay se ha modificado recientemente.

Los artículos que á continuación se expresan, que hasta la fecha del decreto de que se trata se introducían libremente en todos los puertos de la República, quedan sujetos al pago de los siguientes derechos:

Arados y sus piezas	5 por ciento.
Alambre hasta el No. 14	5 "
Máquinas de todas clases para propósitos industriales, y sus piezas.....	5 "
Máquinas é Iustrumentos para la Agricultura, y sus piezas.....	5 "
Bramante, ó cordón de atar, para encuadernadores y segadores.....	5 "
Cáñamo y yute, en bruto	5 "
Pábilo para velas... ..	5 "
Cajas de madera en piezas.....	25 "
Postes de todas clases para cercas.....	10 "
Botellas vacías	15 "
Clorato de Potasa.....	5 "
Soda simple, ó doble.....	5 "
Diámita.....	20 "

REPUBLICA ORIENTAL.

REFORMAS NA TARIFA DE DIREITOS DE
IMPORTAÇÃO

Por intermedio do Consul dos Estados Unidos em Montevidéo, esta repartição tem a noticia das seguintes modificações na tarifa d'aquelle paiz :

Arados e suas partes avulsas pagarão o direito de.....	5 por cento.
Arame até o n. 14.....	5 "
Machinas de toda a sorte para usos industriaes, e suas partes avulsas.....	5 "
Machinas e instrumentos para usos agricolas, e suas partes avulsas.....	5 "
Barbante para machinas de ceifar e engavelar..	5 "
Canhamo e juta em rama.....	5 "
Mechas ou pavios para velas.....	5 "
Caixas abatidas	25 "
Estacas e postes de todas as sortes para cercas..	10 "
Garrafas vazias.....	15 "
Chlorureto de potassa	5 "
Soda, carbonato ou bicarbonato.....	5 "
Dynamite	20 "

Todos os artigos acima especificados até esta reforma gozaram de izenção de direitos.

PORT OF MONTEVIDEO.

The project, as prepared by Messrs. Kummer and Gerrard, for the Port Studies Commission, has been accepted, and officially communicated to the Executive. Engineer Gerrard estimates the cost of completing the port works, exclusive of the hydraulic installation, at \$10,000,000. Messers. Luther & Co. have begun to make the complementary surveys necessary for filling in the port scheme. It is thought that this work will be completed within the month of January.

RESTRICTIONS ON THE TRANSIT TRADE.

In a despatch dated the 17th of September last, Mr. Walter Baring, Her Majesty's Minister at Montevideo, informs the British Foreign Office that a ministerial decree has been issued restricting the transit of goods through Uruguay intended for the Brazils, by way of Rivera and San Eugenio.

The decree limits the time for which all goods in transit for Brazil may be stored in the Custom-Houses of Rivera and San Eugenio to fifteen days, and applies to articles such as silks of all sorts, laces and embroideries of silk, thread or mixed material, tanned skins, playing cards, tobacco and cigars, kid and silk gloves. The articles enumerated above are valuable, not bulky, and pay enormous duties, and consequently offer great temptations to the smuggler.

The object of this decree is to put a stop to the large contraband trade which is carried on on the frontier. Goods are sent up as far as the frontier ostensibly intended for Brazil, and then, as opportunity offers, passed back into this country.

Rivera is the terminus of the Central Railway of Uruguay on the Brazilian frontier, while San Eugenio is that of a short branch running about east by north from a point on the North-Western Railway, halfway between Salto and Cuarcion.

VENEZUELA.

COMMERCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The following interesting information relating to the Republic of Venezuela is extracted from a correspondence of recent date from Caracas :

As regards the trade of Venezuela with the outside world, the value of English goods imported is much greater than that from any other country. Next comes that of the United States, then Germany, France, and Spain, in the order named. England supplies cottons, woollens and general merchandise ; the United States, breadstuffs, oils and provisions ; Germany, cutlery and general merchandise ; France, silks and fancy goods ; Spain and Cuba, wines and tobacco.

As traders throughout Venezuela, the Germans are certainly first in importance and numbers, and German merchants are found in every section of the country. Next in order come the Venezuelans in every class of business, then the French, and lastly the Spaniards and Italians. As merchants or traders, the English and Americans are hardly existent. A few of either nationality may be established here and there, but the number is so small, and their influence so slight, as to call for no special comment.

Coffee forms the principal item, the total shipped being some 51,000 tons during 1894. Of this, however, about 5,000 tons though despatched as Venezuelan, came from Colombia, and must be deducted. The following is an approximate list of the exports and the values at the port of shipment :

PRODUCT.	AMOUNT.	VALUE.
Coffee	46,000 tons.	£3,680,000
Cocoa.....	7,000 "	60,000
Hides.....	170,000 "	90,000
Gold.....	50,000 ounces.	180,000
Other products.....		100,000
Total.....		£4,110,000

* * * In 1881 the population of Venezuela was stated to be 2,075,245; in 1891 the number is given as 2,323,527, and of these 326,000 were of pure Indian blood, these Indians again were classified as 66,000 independent, 20,000 conquered, and 240,000 civilized. During the past fifteen years considerable numbers of Italian, Spanish, and other immigrants have arrived in the country, but, as a rule, these people have only come for some specific purpose, such as employment in the building of railways and other public works * * *

The principal industries of Venezuela are the cultivation of coffee and cocoa, cattle raising, the growth of sugar-cane and its manufacture into sugar and rum for local use, gold mining, and the collection of natural products, such as vegetable ivory, ebony, and other woods, dyewoods, and a variety of articles of minor importance for exportation. Coffee is the main staple of Venezuelan wealth, the cultivation extending in more or less degree to all districts of the Republic where soil and climate are suitable. The port of Maracaibo ships annually some 30,000 tons from the Andine States adjoining Colombia, Puerto Cabello about 7,000 tons from the country round about Valencia, and La Guayra from 12,000 to 13,000 tons from the districts within reach of Caracas.

Venezuelan coffee deservedly bears a high reputation and would gain still more in favor if greater attention was paid to the method of cultivation and preparation for the market. The total area under coffee is estimated at from 180,000 to 200,000 acres, and the average yield at a little under 5 cwt. per acre. The plantations have a neglected appearance generally—knee deep with weeds and the trees unpruned and uncarved for. The coffee is grown under shade trees, forming a strong protection from the hot sun. The total cost of cultivation and other charges up to the time of the delivery of the bean in a marketable state in Caracas or elsewhere is calculated at about 36 s. per cwt., thus leaving a considerable profit to the grower at present values. * * *

An approximate estimate of the number of laborers employed in the industries which I have mentioned is as follows:

Industry.	Average Daily Wage.	Number Employed.	Total Yearly Earnings (300 days).
Cattle Ranches.....	} £2 10s. per month and food }	8,000	£ 240,000
Coffee, Cocoa and sugar plantations.....		3s.	41,000
Gold mining.....	6s.	1,500	135,000
Other farming.....	3s.	10,000	450,000
Total.....		60,500	£2,670,000

At first sight the rate of wages may appear high to Europeans, but when the cost of living is considered the value earned is by no means too great. The necessaries of life are costly to purchase on account of the high protective tariff, the duty on flour being over 10s. per 100 lb.

Of manufactures the only important ones are boots and leather work of all kinds, hats, and soap and candles. The manufacture of these articles is entirely for home use. A little cocoa is refined and made up for foreign markets, but the quantity is small. * * *

There are now 406 miles of railway open for traffic. The lines are all situated on the northern coast, the object being to provide transport over the precipitate mountain ranges immediately adjoining the coastline. In all there are eleven separate companies, six of these being English, three native, one German, and one French. In most cases the Government subscribed a portion of the capital for construction, and to seven of the companies further guaranteed seven per cent. annually on a capital not to exceed £10,000 per mile of railway built. * * *

Of other public works, the harbor of La Guayra is the most noteworthy. The port was constructed by an English company, the La Guayra Harbor Corporation, at a cost of £1,100,000. The wharves and warehouses at the port of Guanta are also in English hands, whilst those at Puerto Cabello belong to the Government. The national telegraph system connects all parts of the Republic with Caracas, the total extension of the wires now exceeding 4,000 miles.

In Caracas, telephonic communication is established throughout the city and suburbs, and connection is made with La Guayra and Valencia, the latter city also having a widely extended system. The water-works for the supply of the city of Caracas have passed into the hands of the Government during the past fortnight. They were built by a Belgian company, who have now disposed of them for a sum of 8,000,000 f. in bonds, specially secured on the works, and bearing five per cent. interest.

COCOANUT CULTURE.

[From advance sheets United States Consular Reports for March, 1896.]

Under date of Puerto Cabello, October, 1895, Consul Proskauer transmits the following information relative to the cultivation of cocoanuts in Venezuela :

Cocoanuts are indigenous to the sandy soil of the seacoast, requiring the warm and equable temperature of the tropics. The coast belt of Venezuela possesses not only these and every other requisite condition, but unusual facilities for the shipment of the fruit to some central point. For hundreds of miles the coast presents a narrow, flat surface, in many

places extending some distance back, and the mountainous formation in other places is equally well adapted for the prolific production of the fruit.

All the soap factories rely, to a great extent, upon their own groves for the oil from which they manufacture their product; but these groves are an insignificant patch when compared to the waste and barren lands, unfit for any other agricultural purpose, and "to be had for a mere song."

The palm of Venezuela requires four years to attain the fruit-bearing period, after which time its producing power is enhanced year by year until its full maturity is reached—about its eighth year. It then produces for forty years. From seventy-five to one hundred trees are planted to the acre, yielding fully 300 to 350 cocoanuts per tree per annum. The profit of the small producer is not less than \$1 per tree per annum. The large grower, handling and shipping his fruit (saving one or two middlemen's charges), would undoubtedly double that figure.

The palm, while a tree of exquisite beauty, yields one of the most nutritious and useful fruits known. As an article of food it is greatly relished; industrially its principle use is in the manufacture of an excellent quality of soap, the cocoanut oil being preferred to fat because of its ability to absorb much more water than the latter. I do not intend, however, in this report to discuss specifically or call attention to its many uses, but simply its application to a suggestion the vice-consul made to me.

The husk of the fruit is now used, to a very limited extent, as fuel, or it is permitted to go to waste. It would, therefore, seem that in countries such as Venezuela and its neighbors, where carpets or other woolen or cotton floor coverings are discarded and nothing but imported mattings used, the manufacture of the fiber of the husk into cocoa matting on the spot would prove profitable, from its export, its sale in these countries, and the exportation of the surplus cleaned fiber to the United States. Such an enterprise, aside from the possession of its own inherent excellence and elements of success, would, no doubt, receive great consideration from this Government, so as to give its infancy an encouraging and substantial support. Venezuela has often increased the duty on imported articles, when its own products were attempted to be utilized in competition with the foreign manufactures, and I believe this would receive like governmental aid.

A BUSINESS VISIT TO SOUTH AMERICA.

[From advance sheets of United States Consular Reports for March, 1896.]

In a dispatch dated Buenos Ayers, October 30, 1895, Minister Buchanan invites the attention of the Secretary of State to a proposition for a visit to the Argentine Republic of a body of representative men from prominent commercial organizations of the United States. Mr. Buchanan believes that there will be no difficulty in securing the names of a sufficient number of prominent manufacturers willing to make such a visit, and feels certain that the good results obtained will amply satisfy the visitors and the organizations they represent. Having brought the subject to the attention of the Foreign Minister of the Argentine Republic, and finding him in favor of the idea, he wrote to him in order to ascertain to what extent his government would recognize such visitors, and received a most gratifying reply. He requests that Secretary of Legation, Fishback, who first suggested the plan, and who will be in Washington in a short time, should be permitted to explain more fully his (Mr. Buchanan's) ideas on the subject. Mr. Buchanan thinks that if such a party visits the Argentine Republic it would desire also to visit Uruguay and Brazil, and has requested Mr. Fishback to bring the subject to the attention of Ministers Stuart and Thompson on his way home. Mr. Buchanan's object is to extend our trade, which he thinks can be done by bringing about a better understanding between the commercial men of both countries.

Minister Stuart writes from Montevideo, under date of December 19, 1895, that Mr. Fishback, Secretary of Legation at

Buenos Ayres, who is returning to the United States on leave, visited Montevideo on the mission referred to in Minister Buchanan's dispatch of October 30, 1895. Mr. Fishback, adds Mr. Stuart, intends while in the United States to endeavor to have delegations from the boards of trade of our leading cities visit Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay, so that, after seeing for themselves the resources and products of these countries, they may take steps to secure a portion of the trade which at present goes to Europe. Wishing to obtain some official assurance that the delegations would be cordially received, and facilities given them for the accomplishment of the end in view, Mr. Stuart, in company with Mr. Fishback, called upon the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and, explaining the matter to him, received a cordial assent. The interview was followed by a note to the Minister of Foreign Affairs on the subject, in which Mr. Stuart said he was persuaded that their views were the same in regard to the advantages that would accrue to the commerce of both countries as a result of a more intimate acquaintance between the leading men from commercial centres, and that the Minister of Foreign Affairs would agree with him that the realization of the proposed visit would conduce in the highest degree to the strengthening of the friendly relations that so happily already existed between the two countries. He asked whether he might feel authorized to assure the commercial organizations in the United States that, in the event of the visit, the Uruguayan Government would be disposed to receive the delegation and render such assistance as would enable them "to see and appreciate the wonderful progress that has been made in recent years in the Uruguayan Republic." Replying, the Minister of Foreign Affairs informed Minister Stuart that his Government would receive with extreme pleasure the visit of the commission mentioned, and would see with great satisfaction aught tending to strengthen and unfold the commercial relations existing between the two countries.

SUCCESS IN THE TROPICS.

Many inquiries are received at the Bureau as to the probability of success from parties intending to try their fortunes in some of the Latin-American countries. The following extract from a letter from a correspondent of the *Boston Herald*, published in that paper, gives a fair statement in reply. It is based upon and treats of an experience in Mexico, but is applicable to many of the Latin-American countries, with some slight exceptions as to details.

You need not starve on the Mexican tierra caliente. Everything you need for your table you may have without much trouble. You can raise chickens and have eggs *ad lib.*, and you can grow yams and fruit and corn, and your own tobacco if you wish, and drink of your own coffee, and make your own sugar to sweeten it withal! You may not be rich, you shall not put in a fourth of the work that is needed in cultivating New England rock pastures, and yet you will be fat and hearty. Corn grows down on the isthmus like the blessing of God, as the Spanish saying has it. You will see it being harvested from one field while it is two feet high in an adjoining field, and, in another, is just shooting up out of the ground.

Hernan Cortez, the conqueror of Mexico, was no fool when he struck for the isthmus to locate his big estates. It is rich soil, and now it has a railway from ocean to ocean, and, as President Diaz said the other day, on his return from that country, the isthmus is fertile enough to support a nation. There is, says the President, room for another New York at Alvarado, on a splendid bay, and some day I believe we shall see a great city there, for it will have all that magnificent agricultural region behind it.

One does not wish to paint everything rose color, and surely the life remote from town, the quiet of the country and the society of but few of one's own race do not constitute an attractive prospect for most men; but, as I must insist, there is independence from hard, grinding conditions in tropical agriculture. A few cases in point: A friend of mine came here many years ago, married a charming Mexican girl, has a pretty family, and, after drifting from one thing to another, hit on sugar,

and now he is in receipt of an income of \$4,000 a month. He tells me life is very sweet, and that he goes to Europe next year.

Another friend was drifting about the streets of this old city of Mexico, doing almost nothing. He began to think of the hot country and what it might offer, took the train, got down there, explored, took up a little land, and now, after four years, would not sell his possessions at less than \$100,000. He is a sugar and coffee planter.

Another man, a surgeon, with a railway practice, threw up the saw and the scalpel, and is now making sugar and \$15,000 a year at the same time. He says he is only beginning, and that in two years more he shall pass his summers yachting off the New England coast.

These are specimens. They have had their trials and their obstacles to overcome. But they had pluck, fertility of resource, tact in handling the native laborers, and they are now independent men, who need not ask of any man a dollar.

STATISTICS OF LATIN-AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

The Statistics given below are taken from the latest available Official Reports:

NAME OF COUNTRY.	AREA IN SQ. MILES	POPULA- TION LAST CENSUS.
Brazil.....	3,218,082	18,000,000
Argentine Republic.....	1,125,086	4,500,000
Chile.....	293,970	3,700,000
Uruguay.....	72,150	787,053
Paraguay.....	98,000	400,000
Bolivia.....	567,240	2,000,000
Peru.....	503,000	3,000,000
Ecuador.....	120,000	1,270,000
Colombia.....	573,900	4,000,000
Venezuela.....	593,940	2,323,517
Guatemala.....	46,800	1,548,062
Costa Rica.....	37,000	243,000
Salvador.....	7,225	780,426
Honduras.....	43,000	396,000
Nicaragua.....	49,500	313,000
Mexico.....	767,005	11,395,712

LIST OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN
REPUBLICS.

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

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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

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

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—	COLOMBIA—
Buenos Aires.	Barranquilla.
Cordoba.	Bogota.
Rosario.	Cartagena.
BOLIVIA—	Colon (Aspinwall).
La Paz.	Medillin.
BRAZIL—	Panama.
Bahia.	COSTA RICA—
Para.	San José.
Pernambuco.	DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—
Rio Grande do Sul.	Puerto Plata.
Rio de Janeiro.	Samana.
Santos.	Santo Domingo.
CHILE—	ECUADOR—
Antofagasta.	Guayaquil.
Arica.	Bahia de Carragues.
Coquimbo.	Esmeraldas.
Iquique.	Manta.
Talcahuano.	GUATEMALA—
Valparaiso.	Guatemala.

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

HAYTI—

Cape Haitien.

Port au Prince.

HONDURAS—

Ruatán.

Tegucigalpa.

MEXICO—

Acapulco.

Chihuahua.

Durango.

Ensenada.

Guaymas.

La Paz.

Matamoras.

Mazatlan.

Merida.

Mexico.

Nogales.

Nuevo Laredo.

Paso del Norte.

Piedras Negras.

Saltillo.

MEXICO—*Continued.*

Tampico.

Tuxpan.

Vera Cruz.

NICARAGUA—

Managua.

San Juan del Norte.

PARAGUAY—

Asunción.

PERU—

Callao.

SALVADOR—

San Salvador.

URUGUAY—

Colonia.

Montevideo.

Paysandu.

VENEZUELA—

La Guayra.

Maracaibo.

Puerto Cabello.

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24. Import Duties of Honduras (contained also in Hand-book).....	10
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January ('94).—Special information on Marble Deposits in Colombia.

February ('94).—Costa Rica at the World's Fair, and Railways in South America.

March ('94).—Ramie Culture in southern countries, and India Rubber in Colombia.

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May ('94).—Tariff Modifications in Mexico.

June ('94).—Import Duties of Guatemala (REVISED).

July ('94).—American Live Stock ; Price of Public Lands in Mexico.

August ('94).—American Live Stock—continued ; Coffee in Peru.

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

April ('95).—Production and Consumption of Coffee; Chilean Currency Conversion Bill; Venezuela, New Law of Public Lands.

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CLINTON FURBISH,
Director.

WASHINGTON, D. C. March 1, 1895.

These publications may be purchased from Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago and New York.

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

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

ESTIMATE OCTOBER 1, 1895.

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

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

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

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

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

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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

DENOMINATION.	WHERE USED.	U. S. EQUIVALENTS.
Are	Metrie.....	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..	30.0787 gallons.
Carga.....	Mexico and Salvador.....	300 pounds.
Centavo.....	Central America.....	4.2631 gallons.
Cuadra.....	Argentine Republic.....	4.2 acres.
do	Paraguay.....	73.9 yards.
do	Paraguay (square).....	8.077 square feet.
do	Uruguay.....	2 acres (nearly).
Cubic Meter.....	Metrie.....	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.....	Metrie.....	15.432 grains.
do	do	2.471 acres.
Hectare.....	do	2.838 bushels.
do (dry).....	do	26.417 gallons.
do (liquid).....	do	2.2046 pounds.
Kilogram (kilo).....	do	0.621376 mile.
Kilometer.....	do	4.633 acres.
League (land).....	Paraguay.....	1.0127 pounds.
Libra.....	Argentine Republic.....	1.043 pounds.
do	Central America.....	1.014 pounds.
do	Chile.....	1.0161 pounds.
do	Cuba.....	1.01465 pounds.
do	Mexico.....	1.0143 pounds.
do	Peru.....	1.0143 pounds.
do	Uruguay.....	1.0161 pounds.
do	Venezuela.....	1.0567 quarts.
Liter.....	Metrie.....	1.0791 pounds.
Livre.....	Guiana.....	1.5-6 acres.
Mauzana.....	Costa Rica.....	

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

DENOMINATION.	WHERE USED.	U. S. EQUIVALENTS.
Marc	Bolivia	0.507 pounds.
Meter	Metric	39.37 inches.
Pie	Argentine Republic	0.9478 foot.
Quintal	do do	101.42 pound.
do	Brazil	120.06 pound.
do	Chile, Mexico and Peru	101.61 pounds.
do	Paraguay	100 pounds.
do	Metric	220.46 pounds.
Suerte	Uruguay	2,700 Cudras (see cu-dra).
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 tonnea—ton (1,000,000 grams) equals 2,204.6 pounds.

METRIC DRY MEASURE.

- Millimeter (1/1000 liter) equals 0.061 cubic inch.
- Centiliter (1/100 liter) equals 0.6102 cubic inch.
- Deciliter (1/10 liter) equals 6.1022 cubic inches.
- Liter equals 0.908 quart.
- Decaliter (10 liters) equals 9.08 quarts.
- Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 2.538 bushels.
- Kiloliter (1,000 liters) equals 1.308 cubic yards.

METRIC LIQUID MEASURE.

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

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

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

METRIC MEASURES OF LENGTH.

Millimeter (1/1000 meter) equals 0.0394 inch.
Centimeter (1/100 meter) equals 0.3937 inch.
Decimeter (1/10 meter) equals 3.937 inches.
Meter equals 39.37 inches.
Decameter (10 meters) equals 393.7 inches.
Hectometer (100 meters) equals 328 feet 1 inch.
Kilometer (1,000 meters) equals 0.62137 mile (3,280 feet 10 inches).
Myriameter (10,000 meters) equals 6.2137 miles.

METRIC SURFACE MEASURE.

Centare (1 square meter) equals 1,550 square inches.
Are (100 square meters) 119.6 square yards.
Hectare (10,000 square meters) equals 2,471 acres.

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







