

# Monthly Bulletin

OF THE

## Bureau

OF THE

# American Republics.

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

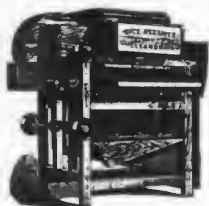
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AUGUST, 1899.

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GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

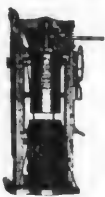
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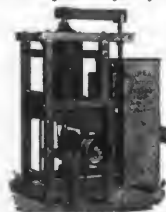
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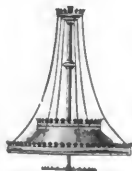
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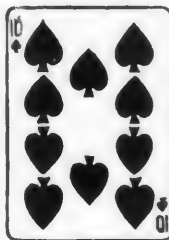
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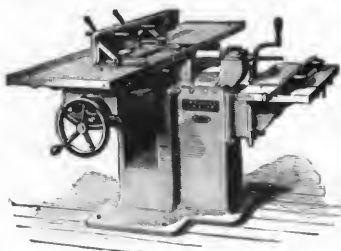
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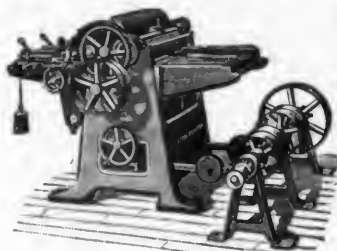
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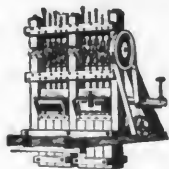
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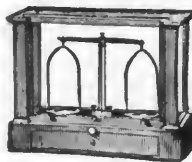


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## UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

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Coquimbo.  
Iquique.  
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Bogotá.  
Cartagena.  
Colón (Aspinwall).  
Medellin.  
Panama.

## COSTA RICA—

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## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—

Puerto Plata.  
Samana.  
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Durango.  
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Mazatlan.  
Mexico.  
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Nogales.  
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Saltillo.  
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 Decagram (10 grams) equals 0.3527 ounce.  
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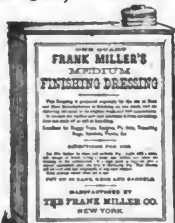
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**MONTHLY BULLETIN**  
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VOL. VII.

AUGUST, 1899.

No. 2.

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**ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.**

**TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1899.**

Under date of May 6, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, United States Minister to the Argentine Republic, transmitted to the Department of State at Washington a report showing the development of the trade of the United States with that country in the first three months of the present calendar year.

This statement shows that there was an increase in the imports from the United States and a decrease in the exports to the United States from the Argentine Republic. A table is also incorporated with the report giving the increase or decrease in the imports or exports of the Argentine Republic for the period named as compared with the same period in 1898. From this it is seen that the increase in the import trade is almost wholly divided between the United States and England, that of all other countries remaining practically stationary. The great increase in exports was to France, Germany, and Belgium; to the United States there was a decrease of exports of \$158,311, and to Great Britain of \$1,940,032. Notwithstanding the great falling off to the latter country, the Minister says the Argentine press has used the figures showing the decreased purchases by the United States as an argument in support of the contention that the wool tariff of the United States operates injuriously against the wool of the Argentine Republic. The decrease in products taken by Chile and Italy—the most notable of the other countries showing a loss of exports—are, respectively, \$508,061 and \$269,597. The total value of exports was \$47,532,893 in the first quarter of 1899 against \$43,970,805 in

the same period of 1898, or an increase of \$3,562,088. The increase in the value of exports has been wholly confined to wool, the price of which during the latter part of the season, the Minister says, has been remarkably good and the wools of the finest quality. The value of the exports of cereals, though much greater in quantity, has decreased. The Minister gives a table showing the shipments of wool from the Argentine Republic from October 1, 1898, to May 1, 1899, which gives a grand total of 396,738 bales. This is a decrease from the previous season, when the shipments were 415,109 bales. During the first-named period 6,262 bales of wool were sent to the United States against 10,995 in the previous year. While there was a decrease in the number of bales of wool, the value for the season ending May 1, 1899, exceeded the previous season by \$4,572,430. Some fine wool sold at Buenos Ayres recently for a higher price than at any previous time during the past fifteen years.

The Minister says that it may not be out of place to mention that, from a somewhat superficial study of the subject, he is of the belief that certain lines of Argentine manufactures are materially benefited and have had a decided impetus given them by the national exposition of Argentine products, which was kept open in Buenos Ayres and very largely attended during the last three months of 1898. The exhibit was a revelation, and "without doubt did much to stimulate the then waning interest in efforts put forth constantly by Argentine industries toward keeping the custom-house tariff on imported goods as high as possible."

On May 9, 1899, DANIEL MAYER, United States Consul at Buenos Ayres, forwarded to Washington a report on the import trade in the Argentine Republic, containing the following figures, showing the total imports, by countries, for the first quarter of 1899 as compared with the same period in 1898, the values being stated in Argentine gold currency, a dollar being equal to 96.5 cents in United States money.

Country.	1899.	1898.	Increase.	Decrease.
Great Britain.....	11,383,548	9,596,771	1,786,777	.....
Italy.....	3,698,244	3,373,586	324,658	.....
Germany.....	3,685,693	3,300,716	384,977	.....
United States.....	3,513,080	1,896,327	1,616,759	.....
France.....	2,827,638	2,706,925	120,713	.....
Belgium.....	2,507,327	2,561,985	.....	54,658
Brazil.....	1,040,970	1,173,924	.....	132,954
Spain.....	645,742	915,567	.....	269,825
Paraguay.....	292,607	345,705	.....	53,098
Uruguay.....	129,607	119,892	9,715	.....
Holland.....	27,356	18,445	8,911	.....
Portugal.....	23,733	21,348	2,385	.....
Chile.....	19,082	7,341	11,741	.....
Bolivia.....	7,556	6,457	1,099	.....
West Indies.....	4,275	7,000	.....	2,725
Other countries.....	14,598	28,207	.....	13,609
Total.....	29,821,072	26,080,196	3,740,876	.....

Minister BUCHANAN comments on what he considers the most interesting phase of the manufacturing question—the effect of the rapid

rise in the value of paper money of the country on the tariff. He says "manufacturers and producers here are invariably found to be opposed to any plan looking toward an increase in value of the paper money of the country. Such persons desire 'high gold'—i. e., cheap paper money. In the case of the manufacturer, 'low gold,' or appreciation in the purchasing power of paper, is equivalent to a reduction in the duty on imported goods, and his trade is injured, since, under such a condition, he finds it more difficult to compete with an imported article than he does when the gold rate is 'high.' \* \* \* I am quite certain on this point that the increased importation shown above in many lines would have been very much greater had this Government not maintained in force during this year the additional 10 per cent provisional custom-house tax imposed last September as a war measure."

The Minister gives an illustration of the practical operation on imported goods of the rise in the value of paper money, and shows, at the same time, why the Argentine manufacturers desire cheap money. The report can be found in full in the United States Consular Reports for July 10, 1899.

#### TRADE AND TONNAGE WITH NEW YORK.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Señor Don CARLOS ROHL, Consul-General of the Argentine Republic, for a very full and detailed report on the trade and tonnage between the United States and the Argentine during the first half year of 1899. Space forbids publishing the tables in full, but parties desiring further information in this regard will be gladly furnished the same upon application.

According to the statistics mentioned, the shipments from the ports of Boston, Portland, Pensacola, Pascagonla, Mobile, Apalachicola, Norfolk, Brunswick, Savannah, and the Puget Sound to Buenos Ayres, Rosario, La Plata, Bahía Blanca, and Puerto Belgrano, consisting principally of lumber and coal, during the first half year of 1899, amounted in value to \$2,118,650. The imports from the Argentine for the same period, consisting in greater part of hides, goat and other skins, wool, cacao, furs, and feathers, and entered at the ports of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, were valued at \$2,940,159.

The exports from the port of New York to Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and Bahía Blanca amounted in value to \$4,247,617. The articles coming to the fore in the "quantity" and "value" columns were: Agricultural machinery and implements, 1,628,847 pounds, \$84,471; alfalfa seed, 93,905 pounds, \$7,738; American carriages, 1,843, \$87,387; barbed wire, 5,056,332 pounds, \$109,460; bicycles, 9,642, \$136,435; bicycle supplies, 31,318 pounds, \$20,058; electrical machinery, 724,502 pounds, \$151,643; hardware, 2,089,394 pounds, \$148,534; harvesting machinery, 5,596 machines, \$234,132; iron and iron pipes, 4,157,556 pounds, \$79,320; machinery, 745,781 pounds, \$92,457; medicines, 235,498 pounds, \$49,604; mowers, 385, \$18,655; petroleum, 4,231,715 gallons, \$417,439; pipe and

fittings, 1,093,311 pounds, \$52,956; plows, 12,723, \$210,654; railroad materials, 5,135,571 pounds, \$131,404; refrigerators and parts, 522,185 pounds, \$27,428; rope, 1,720,711 pounds, \$119,864; seeders, 935, \$25,293; sewing machines, 4,030, \$73,427; sheep wash, 987,132 pounds, \$36,123; shooks, barrel, 28,500, \$47,779; sisal rope, 3,351,017 pounds, \$27,147; tobacco, 309,594 pounds, \$56,074; turpentine, 64,468 gallons, \$30,959; twine, 216,355 pounds, 26,430; white pine, 5,194,255 feet, \$135,834; windmills and parts, 1,600,358 pounds, \$72,895; wire, 13,220,633 pounds, \$234,844.

The tonnage statistics show that during the first half year of 1899 there arrived at New York from the Argentine Republic 6 steamers and 11 sailing vessels, tonnage, 18,699 tons; at Philadelphia, 1 steamer and 8 sailing vessels, 6,758 tons; at Boston, 11 sailing vessels, 7,199 tons; total, 37 vessels, 321,856 tons. The clearances from United States ports for the Argentine Republic were 122 vessels, 94 sailing and 44 steam, of an aggregate tonnage of 126,445 tons.

#### DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The French Consul at Cordoba, in a recent report to his Government, speaks of the demand for agricultural machinery in the Argentine Republic. He says that the rapid development of the cultivation of cereals and lucern (alfalfa) renders this Republic an important market for agricultural machinery of all kinds. He adds that the present machines must be replaced by others in a short time, "owing to the inexperience of those to whom their management (operation) is intrusted. The thrashing machines in use in the Province of Entre Rios are in such a state of deterioration that they are a source of danger to those using them, and even cause the farmers to run the risk of losing their crops for want of machines. Our manufacturers, therefore, can not pay too much attention to a market the demands of which are increasing so rapidly. This market is doubtless almost monopolized by the United States and Great Britain, but if we were to follow their example and open depots at Buenos Ayres, Rosario, and even Cordoba we could easily compete with them. It must also not be forgotten that the cheapest machines can be disposed of most easily. Country land-owners here are speculators rather than veritable farmers, and attach but little importance to finish and durability of the machinery they employ."

As regards the Province of Cordoba, the Consul says the number of imported machines of all kinds in use in the several agricultural colonies was 19,909 (including wagons and carts) in 1892. Since then (until 1898) this total has been increased by 57,497, divided as follows: 39,474 plows, 11,805 wagons, 11,192 harrows, 4,375 rollers or clod crushers, 2,725 carts, 1,692 seed drills, 852 corn-cob cutters, 686 mowers and binders, 320 steam thrashers, and 285 power cornshellers. This does not

include 180 steam thrashers which travel through the country, immediately following the harvest, thrashing the crops of small farmers.

The machines most generally employed in this province are: United States plows, with one share, Nos. 1½, 2½, and 8½, selling for 4.50, 5, and 6.50 piastres (prices are all quoted in gold); the "Virginia" corn sheller from the United States, selling for 28 piastres; the "Clinton" hand-shellers, selling at 6 piastres; scythes (from France) worth 6 piastres per dozen; United States shovels at 6.70, and English shovels at 5 piastres per dozen; the "Colorado" and "Collins" brands of hoes from the United States bringing respectively 2.70 and 14 piastres per dozen; the French "Pengeot" brand at 3.50 piastres per dozen; the "Albion" (English) reapers, Nos. 5 and 7, bringing 70 and 80 piastres, and the "Osborn" and "Enreka" machines from the United States, which sell for 70 and 110 piastres respectively. Thrashers and seed drills have little sale in Cordoba, as the southern and provincial farmers purchase them in Buenos Ayres. The crisis affecting the sugar industry at this time has caused a considerable fall in the imports of machinery for sugar plants. At least one-fifth of the trade is in the hands of the French, and most of the Tucumán sugar mills have been fitted up by French firms. Sales of machinery are made either on a basis of 5 months, or for cash at 5 per cent. discount.

The Belgian Consul at Entre-Ríos, in a recently published report regarding farm implements in that part of the Argentine Republic, says that "among the simple plows used here in breaking the virgin soil I may mention the 'Collins' brand as one of the most appreciated. 'Howard,' 'Avery,' and 'Osborn' plows are also largely used. Double and triple share plows are supplied by 'Collins,' 'Avery,' 'Sims,' and 'Jeffries,' and 'Howard.' Harvesters are of different types. Among the most popular are 'McCormick,' 'Buckeye,' 'Walter A. Wood,' 'Deering,' 'Osborne' (United States), 'Hornsby,' and 'Reliance.'"

Speaking of plows, the Belgian Consul at Buenos Ayres says: "For some years past the use of the simple 'sulky' plow has developed greatly. It is a very powerful implement, and its method of construction and powers of resistance enable it to do excellent work on land covered with straw and weeds. Its price, however, is somewhat high, being from 60 to 70 piastres gold."

#### AGRICULTURAL CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK.

The British consul at Buenos Ayres, in his report for the year 1898 (Annual Series, No. 2219), observes that the year was a good average one for the agriculture of the Republic, and good prices were received for wheat. He adds that a splendid crop of wheat for the year 1898-99 had been harvested, and though it was very difficult to accurately forecast the shipments, yet at the time of writing (March, 1899) it was thought that a surplus of 1,500,000 tons might be safely estimated as available for export for 1899, after allowing for home consumption.

On June 1, 1899, the National Board of Agriculture issued a statistical report of the last wheat crop, from which it appears that up to the end of May the thrashing returns showed an output of 1,834,067 tons. It was also stated that allowance must be made for the wheat not yet thrashed and for incomplete reports, which would easily increase the crop to over 2,000,000 tons. Unsettled weather up to June 1 prevented the thrashing of a great number of crops, and private advices would indicate that 2,000,000 tons was not an overestimate. The published report gives the following figures:

	Areas, in hectares.	Yield, in tons.	Average, in kilos.
Buenos Ayres.....	611,697	602,093	1,177
Santa Fe.....	981,013	763,655	778
Cordoba.....	366,698	340,711	929
Entre Rios.....	142,962	117,608	893
Total.....	2,102,370	1,824,067	3,777

By a decree of May 8, 1899, a service for the inspection of wheat and corn was organized by the Argentine Government in the ports of Buenos Ayres, La Plata, Bahía Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolas, and Villa Constitution. This service was established with a view to certifying that the grain fulfills the necessary conditions for transportation and exportation to foreign markets. The inspection will not be obligatory and will only take place when the owners or consignees so request, and upon payment at the rate of 10 centavos per 1,000 kilograms. The preamble of the decree indicates that its object is to regulate transactions and to prevent, as much as possible, the restrictive measures which might hinder the exporting of grains to foreign markets, and lastly to stimulate the production of first-class grains in Argentina. It is also intended that the inspections, for the time being limited to wheat and corn, have for their principal object the official certification that these products are healthy, dry, and clean.

The report of the British Consul above referred to states, in commenting on the rapid strides which have been and are being made in the improvement of stock raising in the Argentine Republic, that the stock breeders in Great Britain would do well to keep up the quality of the animals they export to that country, as fine animals are being raised on many of the farms, in some cases as good as the imported stock. It is added that for some time the Argentine Republic will be a good market for breeders of fine cattle and sheep, especially the latter; and great care should therefore be taken in securing really fine animals of English breed, if they wish to maintain their standard in the market.

Messrs. GIBSON BROS., of Buenos Ayres, in a circular dated June 1, estimate the River Plate exportation of wool for last season at 555,000 bales. This firm says that it looks forward confidently to sustained interest and firm prices for fine wools and fine crosses in the coming season, due to the falling off in the production of these classes of wool

in the Argentine Republic, from evolution toward the coarse grades, and a great shrinkage in the Australian output owing to the mortality in the flocks.

Naturally, the United States being a country producing and exporting cereals, no such products have been received from the River Plate countries, but of the products that are considered as agricultural the value of the declared exports to the United States from the ports of the Argentine Republic during the first quarter of the year 1899 include the following items: From Buenos Ayres, wool, \$201,935.91; dry hides, \$667,676.46; jerked beef (to Havana, Cuba), \$59,329.05; skins, goat, \$47,894.03; nutria, \$25,205.06; calf, \$10,789.03; sheep, \$4,247.30; carpincho, \$2,100; stag, \$1,245.75; kid, \$933.66; hair, \$20,264.18; bones, \$17,517.35; other animal products, \$27,412.98; ostrich feathers, \$2,288.76.

From Rosario, dry hides, \$326,549.89; wool, \$108,742.25; goatskins, \$199,030.81; other skins, \$22,744.38; hair, \$21,769.55; other animal products, \$711.53; feathers, \$550.53. Total for both ports, \$1,768,938.46.

#### TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

During the first six months of 1899, as shown by the Board of Trade returns published in July by the British Government, the value of the goods received from the Argentine Republic was, reduced to United States currency, \$23,239,003.86, against \$19,848,382.81 received in the first half of the year 1898. During the same period in each of the years named the total value of the goods shipped from British ports to the Argentine Republic was respectively \$7,187,071.87 and \$6,532,262.61.

The receipts from the Argentine Republic were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Live cattle..... head.....	62,152	54,538
Sheep and lambs..... do.....	278,506	269,548
Wheat..... bushels.....	9,691,000	5,975,000
Indian corn and meal..... pounds.....	93,035,000	44,947,000
Mutton (frozen wethers)..... do.....	54,657,700	54,520,400
Wet hides (including Uruguay)..... do.....	1,213,500	1,267,800
Tallow and stearine..... do.....	53,786,400	48,777,000
Flaxseed or linseed..... quarters.....	258,552	226,318

The values of these articles for each of the two periods were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Cattle.....	\$1,890,544.10	\$3,980,205.19
Sheep and lambs.....	2,124,816.76	1,952,268.40
Wheat.....	9,061,465.20	7,837,656.47
Indian corn, etc.....	975,594.07	433,893.90
Mutton.....	3,593,560.46	3,264,166.33
Wet hides.....	170,782.00	163,339.89
Tallow, etc.....	353,534.36	345,826.62
Flaxseed.....	2,068,706.91	1,862,116.01
Total.....	23,239,003.86	19,848,382.81

The shipments to the Argentine Republic included the following items:

	1899.	1898.
Unbleached cotton goods.....	\$346,366.75	\$407,576.16
Bleached cotton goods.....	852,440.11	1,082,227.60
Printed cotton goods.....	889,349.09	585,457.02
Dyed cotton goods.....	621,650.96	403,454.66
Jute manufactures.....	1,040,185.36	337,350.05
Linen piece goods.....	104,365.66	106,198.91
Woolen tissues.....	287,439.49	291,721.57
Worsted tissues.....	666,720.12	453,107.32
Carpets.....	225,397.99	153,600.16
Iron and manufactures of.....	1,999,444.27	2,545,535.98
Cement and earthenware.....	153,712.07	156,033.16
Total.....	7,147,071.87	6,532,262.61

#### VITAL STATISTICS OF BUENOS AYRES.

The city of Buenos Ayres issues monthly a summary of the vital statistics of the municipality. The figures for the month of April, 1899, have just been received and make a significant showing. According to this, the capital of the Argentine Republic had at that time a population of 774,000. The foreign element appears to be constantly increasing in numerical strength as well as in influence. The births during April were 2,690 and the deaths 1,909. The mortality among children was very great; including still-born infants, there were 419 deaths under 5 years of age. Among adults, disease of the lungs was the most fatal cause of mortality, and 167 deaths are attributed to "epidemics and contagious diseases."

With regard to births, the "Buenos Ayres Standard" says that "out of a total of 2,690 births, no less than 1,444 were of foreign parentage and 331 of Argentine fathers and foreign mothers. The births from Argentine parents figure at 318, a small fraction of the whole. Another significant feature is that of the total deaths more than half were Argentines; thus both the death rate and the birth rate unite to eliminate the native element, and at this rate the population must show a marvelous change within the next generation."

In the "Monthly Bulletin of Municipal Statistics of the City of Buenos Ayres" for May, 1899, the population of that capital on the 31st of the month named is given as 776,325 inhabitants. The population according to the census of 1895 was 663,854, showing an increase of 112,471 in four years, or 28,115 per annum.

#### COLOSSAL SCHEME OF IMMIGRATION.

According to the declarations made to the "Diario," of Buenos Ayres, by Señor ENRICO MORENO, the Minister from the Argentine Republic to Italy, a colossal scheme of immigration from the latter to the former country is about to be inaugurated. It is to be executed under the initiative and the management of Prince BALDASSARE ODE



SCALCHI and Gen. RICCIOTTI GARIBALDI, a native of Montevideo, Uruguay. The "Progreso Italo-Americano," of New York, says "the movement will be advantageous to the Argentine Republic as well as to thousands of poor peasants in Italy, and that certainly money will not be lacking if Prince ODESCALCHI is to carry it through." The Prince and General GARIBALDI are reported to have arrived in the Republic and to be negotiating with the Government at Buenos Ayres and discussing conditions relative to the transportation of Italian peasants, chosen from those who have spent all their lives in the cultivation of the soil. To those not possessing ready money the colonization company will furnish all that is necessary to their settlement in the country. The families emigrating to the Argentine Republic are to receive land at a cheap price, to be paid for in easy and long-time payments.

The Governor of the Misiones Territory has lately been in communication with the Minister of the Interior of the Argentine Republic, pointing out the urgent necessity of doing something for the immediate colonization of that fertile part of the Republic. He calls attention to the fact that there are 44 square leagues, or 110,000 hectares, of State lands surveyed and divided into lots and ready to be delivered to colonists. All that is necessary to make these lands productive is to regulate the navigation of the Upper Paraná and to construct a few bridges inland, there being no need to build extensive systems of railway.

#### ERECTION OF A PAPER MILL.

The "Wood Pulp News," New York, of June 29, 1899, says that the rumors which have for some time past been current with regard to the erection of a new paper mill near Buenos Ayres seem to be taking concrete shape. The site selected is on the right bank of the Rio Parana, in the immediate neighborhood of the main line of railroad from Buenos Ayres toward Rio de Janeiro, so that transportation to and from the mill by land and water will be easy. The contemplated works are to be built by a company to be formed at a nominal capital of £180,000, gold. The machinery is to be of the most improved type, capable of turning out daily 20 tons of news, writing, and other qualities of paper. The promoters hope not only to supply the local demand, but also to export largely to the neighboring Republics.

#### THE WHEAT AND CORN CROPS.

The Buenos Ayres "Times," for July 1, says that late official returns are to the effect that the total wheat crop of the Republic is about 1,400,000 tons, of which about 800,000 tons will be for export. Close upon that quantity has been shipped, and there is a large stock available for shipment. The exports will doubtless exceed a million tons. The crop of maize is likely to be a record-breaking one, the present difficulty in connection with it being the inability on the part of the farmers to increase the rate of wages for labor and the scarcity

of workmen to gather the ears from the stalks. According to shippers, the quality of the product is not of the best, but if prices in the European markets improve, it is thought that most of it will be found good enough for immediate shipment. Some of the dealers and several of the shippers estimate the probable quantity of corn available for export at 2,000,000 tons.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The Minister of Public Works of the Argentine Republic has ordered a map of all the State railroads to be made. The work is under the charge of the engineer, Señor VOYER. The Argentine railway system now comprises 15,884 kilometers, as against 14,035 in Brazil, 11,469 in Mexico, 3,957 in Chile, and 1,624 in Peru.

Mr. SIMON MANY, Commissioner of Foreign Commerce for France at Mercedes, gives the following statements: The discovery of a metallic ore rich in manganese has recently been made in the province of San Luis. A Belgian engineer who visited the place found that there is in that region a quarry bearing a fine specimen of marble with red spots. Some of the quarried product has been shipped to France, where it seems to be in great demand. Some of these quarries are yielding good profits, while others have not been as yet developed for want of capital. The same authority also reports that a telegraphic convention *ad referendum* has been lately signed between the Argentine Republic and Brazil for the establishment of a direct line between Buenos Ayres and Porto Alegre, which, while improving the international service, will also bring a reduction in the telegraphic rates between the two countries.

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### BOLIVIA.

#### EXPORTS OF SILVER ORE TO THE UNITED STATES.

What was probably the first cargo of silver and silver ore brought from the west coast of South America to an Atlantic port of the United States reached the city of Philadelphia on July 18, 1899. On that date the British steamer *Kentigeru* brought 16,239 sacks of high-grade silver ore and 600 bars of pig silver, valued at over \$150,000, besides a cargo of miscellaneous products valued at \$160,000 more. The steamer left Guayaquil, Ecuador, on April 25, 1899, and visited a number of South American ports en route, adding to its cargo.

The silver came from rich mines high up in the Bolivian Andes, which are operated by miners from the United States and Great Britain. The ore must be carried by pack mules to Antofagasta, the nearest seaport. The lack of smelting facilities makes it necessary to ship most of the ore out of the Republic, but the grade is so nearly pure that it can compete successfully with the baser ores of other countries even with the additional expense.

## BRAZIL.

## COMMERCE OF THE STATE OF BAHIA.

The State of Bahia, Brazil, is situated between the ninth and eighteenth degrees of south latitude. It has a superficial area of 164,601 square miles, with 635 miles of coast line. It extends from the River Real in the north to Doce Creek, forming part of the boundary line between Bahia and Minas Geraes. The surface of the country is of a mountainous character, the height of the uplands being from 1,000 to 2,000 feet above the level of the sea, and is intersected by a number of magnificent rivers. The climate varies with the locality; on the seacoast it is generally warm the entire year, the hottest months being from December to April, when the average is 84°. During these months malarial, yellow, and other pernicious fevers prevail constantly, but in the interior of the State, which is far more temperate, yellow fever is scarcely ever heard of. The population of the State, which was in 1895, exclusive of various tribes of Indians, 1,683,641, is now claimed by the latest official computation to be 1,870,000, of whom about 16 per cent are foreigners. The capital, San Salvador, usually called Bahia, has a population of about 250,000, the predominating foreign element being Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish. Fully 80 per cent of the total population are negroes and half-breeds. The Government has a land system of telegraphs embracing nearly the whole of Brazil, which, through Para, connects with the French trans-Atlantic cable to Europe and the United States. Besides this, there is the British Western and Brazilian Telegraph Company, with a cable from Para to the River Plate, connecting at Pernambuco with the Submarine Company, having a cable between that port and St. Vincent, Cape de Verde Islands.

There are six lines of railway open to traffic, while another is in course of construction. Ten regular lines of steamers call at the port of Bahia, besides "tramps" seeking cargoes. Of the regular lines, three are British, two German, two French, two Italian, and one Austrian. In addition to these are five British coasting lines. The number of steamships of all nationalities entering and clearing the port of Bahia during the years 1896, 1897, and 1898 was 810, 790, and 678, respectively. The coasting-trade law, by which only vessels under the Brazilian flag are allowed to trade between Brazilian ports, went into force two years ago, but the national mercantile marine has been found inadequate to cope with this traffic, and delays and serious losses to the merchants have been the result. For years there has been a general complaint at the great delay in landing goods at the custom-house; steamers arrive and discharge their cargoes into lighters, where on many occasions the merchandise remains for six weeks or more previous to being landed at the custom-house wharves. Matters, however, somewhat improved during 1898, when a contract was entered into

with the firm of ARMSTRONG, WHITEHOUSE & Co. for two powerful hydraulic cranes, which will enable the lighters to unload their goods more rapidly. The roads all through the State, except in the vicinity of towns, are but mere bridle paths, and everything transported overland has to be conveyed on the backs of mules. In the interior the River Sao Francisco is navigable for moderate-sized, shallow-draft vessels from Cabrobó to Cachoeira de Pirapora, in the State of Minas Geraes, a distance of nearly 850 miles. A great number of the afluentes of this river are also navigable by the same craft for long distances.

The British Consul at Bahia, Mr. NICOLINI, has recently made a report to his home government on the trade of Bahia for the years 1896, 1897, and 1898, printed by the Foreign Office as No. 2282 of the annual series of the diplomatic and consular reports of Great Britain. From this the following facts are obtained:

The principal industries of the State are agricultural. Of the leading crops, the production of tobacco is very large and sold in 1898 for high prices. The crop of the present year is looked upon as almost a complete failure, caused by severe drought, which has prevailed for nearly six months. During the year 1897 the exports of tobacco were 23,456,185 kilos, valued at £714,339. Coffee is reported to be in a most depressed condition, owing to the constant fall in price. The quantity exported in 1897 was 17,835,979 kilos, valued at £347,185. It is fully expected by those interested that owing to neglect in pruning and the abandonment of the plantations opened up several years ago, every year hereafter will show a gradual diminution in the production of this article.

The quantity of rubber received during 1898 increased materially. In the unexplored interior of this State, inhabited by different tribes of Indians, large tracts of forests with an abundance of rubber trees are said to exist, but owing to difficulties in the way of transportation this source of wealth is almost unavailable. The exports of rubber in 1897 were 234,379 kilos, valued at £19,223.

The number of hides exported has greatly increased during the past twelve months, but this is entirely due to the great mortality among the cattle caused by the drought. The number of hides exported in 1897 was 164,628, valued at £46,001.

Besides agricultural products, there is considerable trade in diamonds and carbonates, the products of mines situated in the interior of the State. The whole State is rich in mineral wealth, but it has never been properly exploited. Gold may be found in various sections, but with the exception of washings of alluvial deposits by the native laborers, the only mine in operation is the "Jacobina" mine, where machinery has been erected for crushing quartz. So far, the results have not been satisfactory. Manganese has been discovered in abundance in the province of San Antonio, and two mines are being worked there. They yield an ore averaging about 42 per cent. Cargoes of this ore have been shipped to Europe and the United States. Monazite sand was

found some years ago near the town of Prado, in the southern part of the State, by a mining engineer from the United States. After a controversy with the State government, he was granted the exclusive privilege, in 1897, of exporting the sand, which is estimated to be worth £20 per ton. The State export duty, on this valuation, is 24 per cent.

Several cotton factories exist in the State, principally in the capital or its immediate vicinity, the greater part of the raw cotton being imported. These mills manufacture coarse and fine cotton cloths, calicoes, striped, checked, and blue drills, ticking, etc., all of which is consumed in the State. They can not, however, supply one-tenth part of the local consumption. The number producing ticking and coarse cotton bagging is 10, employing 3,000 hands; 1 factory, employing 1,200 hands, produces prints and fine cloths; another factory produces jute bagging and cloth, and employs 120 hands. Besides these there is a match factory employing 60 hands; a tannery employing 50 hands; 2 boot and shoe factories, with 120 operatives; 6 sawmills, with 120 men; 7 soap works with 60 hands, and 3 candle factories employing 40 persons. Cigar and cigarette factories are numerous. This is probably the most important industry in the State, other than agriculture, there being 6,000 men, women, and children employed. There are also 3 foundries, 2 of which belong to Brazilians and the other to an English firm. They can not produce castings over 5 tons in weight.

For the year 1897 the total value of imports was £1,950,000. The principal articles imported were woolen, linen, cotton, and silk stuffs; Hessian and jute bagging and yarn; hardware; iron, steel, copper, and brass manufactures of all descriptions; machinery; railway material of all kinds; coal; pine lumber; cordage of all kinds; canvas; groceries; wines; spirits; petroleum; oils; flour and salt. Of such imports, about 36 per cent come from the British possessions, although there is no doubt that Great Britain is losing ground and Germany forging ahead, owing to a cheaper class of articles being supplied and the greater facilities for payment. Up to the present time, however, France is the greatest loser by Germany's advance.

It is very difficult to secure information from the Government departments with regard to the imports, and almost impossible to give a correct idea of the merchandise coming into the State. During 1898 twenty-six general cargoes arrived from the United States, which excels in only one article of the import trade—flour. During the year 1897 the exports from Bahia to the United States were as follows: Coffee, 11,398,200 kilos; cocoa, 681,720 kilos; hides (number), 29,159; sugar, 7,619 bags; rosewood, 2,181 logs; india rubber, 1,381 packages; logwood, 893 logs; tobacco, 160 kilos.

#### TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

From the returns, as published by the British Government for the first six months of the year 1899, the following figures with reference to the trade between the United Kingdom and Brazil have been obtained.

The values, given in the British report in pounds sterling, have, for convenience, been reduced to United States currency values, £1 being equal to \$4.866. Exports to Brazil: Cotton piece goods of all kinds, unbleached, bleached, printed, dyed, or colored, \$2,770,705.25; decrease, compared with the same months of 1898, \$1,028,253.92. Jute piece goods, jute yarn, linen manufactures, and woolen and worsted tissues, \$1,048,073.14; decrease, \$258,267.81. Metallic manufactures, including all articles of wrought copper, hardware, entlery, bar, angle, bolt and wrought iron, railroad iron and steel, steel and iron wire, hoops, sheets, boiler and armor plate, galvanized sheets, tin plates and sheets, cast iron and steel and of iron and steel combined, \$1,673,597; decrease, \$293,541.45. Leather, and boots and shoes, \$115,854.59; decrease, \$59,053.77. Cement and earthenware, \$222,308.08; increase, \$32,402.69. Oils from seeds, \$16,007.14; decrease, \$5,756.48.

The imports from Brazil during this period were as follows: Unrefined sugar, \$138,632.34; same in first six months of 1898, \$665,985.09; decrease, \$527,352.65. Coffee, \$363,757.83; in 1898, \$511,221.96; decrease, \$147,464.13. Raw cotton, \$17,712.24; in 1898, \$402,150.57; decrease, \$384,438.33.

#### STEAMSHIP SERVICE BETWEEN PARÁ AND NEW YORK.

The State Government of Pará has appropriated \$50,000 (see MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, page 215), to which the authorities at Rio de Janeiro have added \$200,000, as a subsidy for the purpose of establishing a new line of steamships from New York to the city of Pará. New York parties have been in negotiations with the Pará authorities for some time looking to the establishment of this line, and in case of the eventual success of the scheme it is their purpose to put three steamers on the line, making triweekly trips. As most of the beef cattle raised in Brazil are raised for the hides alone, and the meat is tough and unfit for food, the company expects to do a thriving business in furnishing the markets of Pará and Rio de Janeiro with frozen meat. As the population of the city of Pará is about 100,000, to say nothing of the vastly larger population of Rio de Janeiro, the new line will doubtless be a paying one.

#### ELECTRIC TRACTION IN PARÁ.

Foreign capital has been attracted to the construction of electric traction in Brazil, an account of which was given in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for July, 1899, page 11. One of the most important enterprises of this kind is that of the city of Sao Paulo, which is quite a manufacturing center of about 200,000 inhabitants, and is largely self-supporting. Some 20 miles from the city there is available water power, which it is calculated will furnish a minimum supply of from 15,000 to 20,000 horsepower. A syndicate has been formed in New York to utilize this power and transmit it to the city for furnishing the

lighting, railway, and power service. Franchises have been obtained for street-railway lines covering all the desirable routes in the city, and engineers have already sailed for Sao Paulo, with a large consignment of electric-railway apparatus, to enter upon the construction of the lines.

#### THE AMAZON TELEGRAPH COMPANY.

The Electrical World and Engineer for July 22 reports that, after encountering many difficulties, the Amazon Telegraph Company has decided to abandon the cable in the Amazon River from Pará to Manaus. The company is, however, building a land line with the same reaches of cable. It has issued bonds in the sum of \$600,000, with interest at 5 per cent, and it is stated that the Brazilian Government has granted to the company a subsidy of \$85,625 a year for twelve years.

#### AN ICE PLANT FOR PARÁ.

The "Journal of Commerce" of New York for July 21 reports that Messrs. G. AMSINCK & Co. are preparing to ship to Pará a complete ice-making plant of 10 tons capacity per day. This plant, when in operation, will make the sixth ice plant already in use in that city, with a combined output of 40 tons per day. At the present time considerable ice is shipped from Pará to various parts of Brazil. The outlook for this industry in other parts of the Republic is said to be encouraging.

#### MARKET FOR MIRRORS.

The Consul for France at Rio de Janeiro, in his annual report, recently published in Paris by the French Government, says that mirrors have an important sale throughout Brazil. According to the statistics which this official furnished, the imports of looking-glasses and mirror glass during 1898 were: From Germany, 326,576 kilograms; England, 49,667 kilograms; France, 35,273 kilograms, and Belgium, 26,260 kilograms. High class frames are generally of French origin, the commoner lines coming from Germany. The German gilding is considered greatly inferior to the French; hence the mirrors are much cheaper and sell more readily, though they have to be replaced in a much shorter time. The customs duties on pictures, looking-glasses, and mirror glass of less than 15 square decimeters (234 square inches) are from 1 franc (19.3 cents) to 1.30 francs (25.09 cents) per kilogram (2.2046 pounds), according to the richness of the frames. Above this size the duty is 50 per cent *ad valorem*. The duty on ready-made frames or moldings is 2 francs per kilogram.

#### TOUR OF UNITED STATES MINISTER BRYAN.

Extracts from Brazilian newspapers have been received at the Bureau of the American Republics which give accounts of the visits of Colonel CHARLES PAGE BRYAN, Minister of the United States at Rio de Janeiro, accompanied by other members of the legation, to the States

of Sao Paulo and Bahia. A special correspondent of the "Correio Paulistano" was also with the party, which was everywhere received in the most cordial manner. On July 2 the Minister arrived at Joazeiras, State of Bahia, with the Governor of the State. They were enthusiastically received at Alagoinhas, Serrinha, Villa Nova, and other wayside stations. On July 3 the party inaugurated a new line of steamers to ply on the River Sao Francisco, which will open up much of the interior of the Republic to the commerce of the world.

#### PRINCIPAL TEXTILE PLANT.

The French Consul in Rio de Janeiro has sent to the National Bureau of Foreign Commerce a very interesting report on the textile plants of Brazil, dealing particularly with the *agave americana*, which he describes as follows:

"The leaves of this plant often attain the size of 2 meters 25 centimeters in length. They are formed by a series of long fibers, strong and very fine, running lengthwise in a thick pulp-like substance. When the leaves are green they weigh ten times as much as when they are dry. A properly prepared leaf yields two-thirds of its weight in fiber. Attention must be called to the fact that it is easier to prepare the leaf when it is half green, the fiber thus obtained being purer and stronger. When cultivated in a proper soil, the plant may begin to yield leaves ready for the knife when a year old. The best soil is a calcareous and porous earth. The cultivation of the plant requires capital and a certain amount of knowledge of agricultural chemistry."

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Large contracts have been made with United States electrical companies for the new electric roads at Rio de Janeiro, Par , and Manaus.

Hereafter all the steamers of the Hamburg-American Line, going to Brazil and the River Plate, will touch at Cherbourg, according to "Le Nouveau Monde."

Next year will be the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil, and it is proposed to celebrate it fittingly. The Congress has been asked to appropriate \$60,000 toward the expenses of the celebration.

By Decree No. 3307, of June 6, 1899, the Government of Brazil authorized the Brazilian Sub-Marine Telegraph and the Western and Brazilian Telegraph companies to consolidate under the denomination of "The Western Telegraph Company, Limited," and operate in Brazil as one company.

A comparative statement of the customs receipts at Rio de Janeiro for the first half of each of the two years of 1898 and 1899 shows that during the former they were \$42,418,465.45 and during the latter \$37,460,595.28, showing a decrease during the latter of \$4,957,870.17,



or nearly 12 per cent. The disparity is more apparent than real, however, when it is recalled that 10 per cent of the import duties during the present year is collected in gold.

## CHILE.

### OPENING OF CONGRESS—THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The Chilean Congress opened its 1899 session on July 1, the chief feature of the occasion being the brevity and laconism of the President's speech. President ERRÁZURIZ has broken through all the traditions in the way of Presidential addresses, and has expressed himself in a very few words. A resumé of his remarks with respect to the financial condition and prospects of the Republic shows that during the fiscal year of 1898 there were on hand in the national treasury \$2,462,367.91, which sum added to the estimate of revenue for the current year, amounting to \$108,255,906, makes a total of \$110,719,273.91. The estimated expenditure for the current year amounts to \$102,221,847, which will leave a surplus for next year of \$8,497,426.57. The estimated expenditure for 1900, in gold and currency, amounts to \$100,940,079.16, while the estimated ordinary and extraordinary revenue amounts to \$108,374,548.79, which, added to the surplus just referred to, makes a total of \$116,871,975.36. The value of the foreign trade of the country in 1898 amounted to \$270,331,429, of which sum \$102,262,058 corresponded to imports, and \$168,069,431 to exports. There was a falling off of \$35,948,860 in imports, while the exports showed an increase of \$31,438,211 as compared with 1897.

Of the conversion of paper money, the President says: "One of the regrettable results of the strained international relations of last year (with the Argentine Republic) was the disappearance of the gold standard, which the country had adopted at the cost of very great sacrifices. The financial position of the country is, however, such that it is possible to predict with certainty that conversion will be carried out in conformity with the act of July 31, 1898." In the expenditures there is included the sum of \$15,000,000 to give effect to this last-named act. The returns of the State railways show a profit of \$948,918, being an excess of \$568,559 over 1897. The President goes on to say that the high price of copper will favor a larger exportation of this metal; "the revenues will exceed the expenditures; exchange has improved greatly; the cessation of expenditure for war material and the prosecution of important public works will bring about a general improvement."

### NEW PRESIDENTIAL CABINET.

After considerable difficulties, President ERRÁZURIZ has succeeded in forming his new Ministry. This task was first confided to Gen.

ARÍSTIDES MARTÍNEZ, but the limitations placed upon him were such that he could not carry out the Presidential programme. The President finally called in Don RAIMUNDO SILVA CRUZ, a Liberal deputy, and requested him to form a Ministry within the Liberal elements. Señor SILVA CRUZ succeeded in forming a Ministry composed as follows:

Minister of the Interior, Don RAIMUNDO SILVA CRUZ; Minister of Foreign Relations, Public Worship, and Colonization, Don FEDERICO PUGA BORNE; Minister of Justice and Public Instruction, Don FRANCISCO J. HERBOSO; Minister of Finance, Don FEDERICO PINTO IZARRA; Minister of War and Marine, Don JAVIER FIGUEROA; Minister of Industry and Public Works, Don DANIEL RIOSECO.

The Prime Minister, Señor SILVA CRUZ, is about 45 years of age, a lawyer by profession, and a Liberal Democrat in politics. He is a member of the present Chamber of Deputies, and served as Minister of Foreign Relations in the coalition Ministry presided over by ANTONIO VALDES CUEVAS.

Don FEDERICO PUGA BORNE is about 43 years of age, a physician by profession, and belongs to what is usually known as the *Liberal-Errazurista* party. He is at present a Senator of the Republic, and was at one time Minister of Justice and Public Instruction.

Don FRANCISCO J. HERBOSO is about 48 years of age, a lawyer by profession, and a Liberal Democrat in politics. He resigned the position of Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies to accept his present portfolio.

Don FEDERICO PINTO IZARRA is about 42 years of age, a lawyer by profession, and in politics a member of that branch of the Liberal party denominated *Liberal-Doctrinarios*. He was Secretary of the Chilean Legation at Washington in 1881.

Don JAVIER FIGUEROA is in the neighborhood of 43 years of age, a lawyer, and a *Liberal-Errazurista*. This is the first public position he has occupied.

Don DANIEL RIOSECO is about 43 years of age, a Liberal Democrat in politics, a physician, and at present a member of the Chamber of Deputies.

The Ministry has for the present, at least, the support of all the allied Liberal forces and can count upon a positive majority of six in the Senate and a very large one in the Chamber of Deputies. So long as the allied Liberal forces continue to act in accord the life of the present Ministry will last.

#### A NEW STEAMSHIP LINE.

According to a communication to the "Moniteur Officiel" from Mr. PAUL ROBIN, French Consular representative at Valparaiso, the Spanish Minister at Santiago has recently obtained from the Chilean Government a subvention of £25,000 in favor of the "Compagnie Espa-

gnole Transatlantique," for the establishment of a line of steamers between Spanish and Chilean ports. It is stated that the contract is for a period of four years and that the steamers of this company are to reach Valparaiso at intervals of fifteen days, after touching at the chief ports of Brazil, Uruguay, and of the Argentine Republic, and at Punta Arenas, near the western end of the Straits of Magellan. The company reserves the right to extend its service to the northern ports of Chile some time in the future.

#### INCREASED POSTAL RECEIPTS.

During the year 1898, 11,752,923 pieces of mail matter, representing a value of \$418,765.27, passed through the Valparaiso post-office, being an increase as compared with 1897 of 76,618 pieces and of \$11,360.52. Money orders on home offices were issued to the value of \$379,032.39 and on foreign offices to the value of \$18,903.62. The orders paid were, from the interior, 37,576, of the value of \$1,337,518.48, and from abroad, 236, of the value of \$19,923.67. The Parcels Post showed the following results: Samples of no value, 2,047; parcels duty free, 1,300, of the declared value of \$24,733.46; parcels dutiable, 2,913, valued at \$105,398.56; duty paid, \$38,572.71. In this branch France led, with Germany second, and England third. The excess of receipts over expenditures has been steadily increasing for the past six years, and in 1898 was \$91,545.95.

#### THE PUNITAQUE QUICKSILVER MINE.

The "Mining and Engineering Review" for July says that San Francisco capitalists have obtained a bond on the famous Punitaque quicksilver mine near the city of Coquimbo, in the province of the same name in the Republic of Chile. This mine is situated only 4 miles from the railway connecting Coquimbo and Santiago. It was discovered in 1785, and the Spanish Viceroy at that time, in his report to the home Government, said that this mine was "the richest jewel in the Spanish Crown." The cinnabar ore ranges from 5 to 10 per cent in quicksilver. The property is owned by the family of the late JUAN M. LUCCO, formerly Consul from Chile to the United States, and the bonding has been effected by J. M. TINOCO, Consul-General of Costa Rica.

#### EXPORTS OF NITRATES IN 1898.

The exports of nitrates from Chile during the year 1898 amounted to 28,468,058 Spanish quintals, exceeding by 4,497,270 quintals the figures of 1897. The exports of nitrates during this and the coming year have been estimated at 30,000,000 Spanish quintals. The exports of this article to England, France, Germany, Belgium, Holland, and other countries of Europe during the first quarter of 1899 amounted to 394,000 tons. From April 1, 1898, to March 31, 1899, there were exported from all ports of Chile nitrate to the amount of 1,320,000 tons, as against 925,000 in the same period of 1896-97, and 1,130,000 in 1897-98.

## REPORT OF THE INSPECTOR OF RAILWAYS.

The Technical Inspector of the Chilean State Railways has presented to the Government an interesting report dealing with the means of transportation within the Republic, and suggesting the railways and maritime installations which are necessary to complete all the sections of the State railway. The inspector recommends the prolongation of certain lines and the completion of others, as also the erection of piers and other works on the coast and the construction of new lines of railway thereto. The estimated cost to carry out the plan submitted by the inspector will entail upon the Government the expenditure of \$15,000,000.

## GOVERNMENTAL AID TO SHIPPING.

The "Marine Review" of August 3 says that the Republic of Chile is considering the problem of giving Governmental aid to its shipping. Various solutions of the existing high shipping rates have been proposed, among which is a plan to make annually a subsidy allowance per registered ton for each 1,000 miles traversed; a scheme for granting privileges and reductions in duties to vessels flying the Chilean flag, and a suggestion for the establishment of a steamship line under the patronage of the State.

## TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

According to the published figures issued by the Board of Trade of Great Britain, the trade returns of that country with the Republic of Chile for the six months ending June 30, 1899, excepting for nitrates, as compared with the same months of 1898 (the values being reduced to United States currency), were as follows:

## IMPORTS FROM CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Wheat .....	\$24,048.25	\$565,662.77
Copper ore .....	950,183.82	355,748.39
Copper, regulus and precipitates .....	353,801.99	334,350.20
Copper, unwrought and partly wrought .....	1,960,579.52	1,555,061.68
Total .....	3,289,513.58	2,809,823.04

## EXPORTS TO CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Cotton piece goods:		
Unbleached .....	\$204,571.51	\$158,256.92
Bleached .....	385,708.36	413,926.29
Printed .....	292,913.74	327,914.87
Dyed .....	287,843.36	256,929.67
Woolen piece goods .....	154,962.64	188,411.52
Worsted piece goods .....	176,110.27	176,825.57
Carpets .....	33,770.04	49,370.44
Iron and steel and manufactures of .....	417,303.29	461,029.17
Total .....	1,933,183.21	2,032,664.45

## INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC LIGHT AT PUNTA ARENAS.

A recent issue of the "Chilean Times," published at Valparaiso, Chile, contains illustrations and a brief account of the electric light station at Punta Arenas. This plant was installed by the Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Company, and started on September 17, 1898, for the "Compañía de Luz Eléctrica de Punta Arenas," an organization of local capitalists. The installation is the farthest south of any electrical establishment in the country, and was originally placed with the intention of lighting the dwelling houses and streets of the city. A contract has since been entered into with the city government to furnish 250 street lights of 32 candlepower each. For this a duplicate plant of electrical machinery has been ordered, the first not being of sufficient capacity to adequately light both dwelling houses and streets.

## MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

A Latin-American Medical Congress will be held in Santiago from December 25, 1900, to January 1, 1901.

The customs revenues during the first four months of the current year in Chile amounted to \$20,553,742.10, as compared with \$19,614,029.86 in the corresponding period of last year.

The *Guatemala*, a new steamship ordered by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company for the traffic between Valparaiso and Central America, sailed from Liverpool for the Pacific on July 1, last.

Chilean merchants are much interested in a movement which is now on foot to request of the Government the loan of a vessel on which to establish a floating exhibition of the country's products and manufactures. It is proposed that the exhibition shall visit Pacific ports, and much interest is being manifested in the scheme.

"The South American Journal" is authority for the statement that, up to the 1st of July last, \$75,900 had been subscribed in Chile with the object of promoting the opening of maritime commerce between that Republic, Uruguay, the Argentine Republic, and Brazil. The transports *Angamos* and *Casma* were to be employed in a first trial, and, should the undertaking turn out to be profitable, a syndicate with a capital of £200,000 was to be formed to place the business on a firm foundation.

On April 18, 1899, the Chilean Government promulgated a decree which recites that "whereas specifications for railroad buildings generally included the obligation to use Oregon pine in the construction; that there are first-class woods in the country which can be used advantageously over foreign lumber in said work, hereafter lumber to be used in the construction of railroads must be of domestic origin, and that whenever it becomes necessary, owing to local conditions, to employ Oregon pine, or other foreign lumber, the approval of the Government must first be obtained, and these conditions must be recited in the specifications."

## COLOMBIA.

## TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

From the "Accounts relating to the Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom during the year 1899" the following data relative to the British trade with the Republic of Colombia for the six months ending June 30 have been obtained:

The receipts of Colombian products are not shown in the British report, but are no doubt included under the general headings "South America" and "Other countries." The shipments to Colombia from British ports in the period named, and also in the corresponding months of 1898, were: Gray or unbleached piece goods, £13,986 in 1899, and £14,187 in 1898; bleached piece goods, £62,832 in 1899, and £56,439 in 1898; printed piece goods, in 1899 £80,153, and in 1898 £63,675; dyed piece goods, in 1899, £36,443; in 1898, £29,361. Total cotton manufactures, £193,414 in 1899, and £163,662 in 1898, or, reduced to United States values, \$941,152.52 in 1899, and \$796,379.29 in 1898. During the same periods the sale of linen goods, which is the only other article figuring in the report, was as follows: In 1899, £12,456; in 1898, £16,954; or \$60,610.90 in 1899 and \$82,498.16 in 1898.

## CONCESSION FOR THE MANUFACTURE OF MATCHES.

The Government of Colombia has determined to grant a concession for the manufacture of matches for a period of twenty-five years. The concessionary will be expected to erect three factories in three different provinces of the Republic, the first of which has to be in operation one year from the signing of the concession. Bids may be sent in, up to the end of September, 1899, to the Ministerio de Hacienda, at Bogotá. The importance of the concession may be realized from the fact that the importation of matches into Colombia in 1897 amounted to 608,398 kilograms, of which 176,911 were wax vestas. An account of an agreement with reference to the granting of a match monopoly was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899, pages 2165, and 2166.

## NEW MINISTER OF THE TREASURY.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received advices stating that General JULIO RENGIFO, for many years Secretary and *Charge d'Affaires* of the Colombian Legation in the city of Washington, and who is now on leave in his native country, has been appointed Minister of the Treasury. General RENGIFO, by reason of his long diplomatic experience, his keen intelligence, and statesmanlike qualities, will carry into his new office not only great qualifications, but the congratulations of his many friends in the United States.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

The Colombian Government will place a light-house on Gomez Island, in order to point out the dangers to navigation which the neighborhood of the mouth of the Magdalena river presents on the Puerto Colombia side.

The Columbus Bridge Company, Columbus, Ohio, recently shipped for the Magdalena and Bogotá Railroad Company, of Colombia, five steel bridges for the line of that railroad. One bridge has a span of 120 feet, two have spans of 100 feet each, and two of 36 feet each.

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**COSTA RICA.****GOLD COINAGE AUTHORIZED.**

The Constitutional Congress of Costa Rica, by enactments of June 24, 1899, empowered the Executive Power to negotiate a private loan to an amount not to exceed £200,000, pledging as security 60,000 ordinary shares of the Costa Rican railroad, owned by the nation. The total proceeds of the loan are to be converted into national gold coin of the fineness and weight established by Decree No. 4, of October, 1896.

**MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.**

The exporting of beef cattle from Costa Rica to Cuba continues, and is making deep inroads on the domestic supply.

The legal existence of the Anglo-Costa Rican Bank, of San José, has been extended to June 30, 1930.

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**CUBA.****CUSTOMS RECEIPTS IN 1899.**

The total customs receipts at the several ports of Cuba during the six months ending June 30, 1899, amounted to \$7,084,168.51. Of this amount \$6,227,098.37 were derived from import duties; \$388,801.11 from export duties; \$14,512.81 from capitation taxes; \$74,898.99 from harbor improvement taxes; \$5,857.27 from coastwise tonnage taxes; \$229,181.89 from foreign tonnage taxes, and \$140,095.07 from other sources. The number of vessels coastwise and foreign that entered and cleared the ports of Cuba for the first six months of 1899 is as follows: Total number of coastwise vessels entered, 4,527; total of foreign entered, 2,228. Total of coastwise tonnage entered, 729,988 tons; total of foreign tonnage entered, 2,477,340 tons. Total number of coastwise vessels cleared, 4,459; total number of foreign vessels cleared,

2,128. Total of coastwise tonnage cleared, 746,558 tons; total of foreign tonnage cleared, 2,352,668.

#### DISCOVERY OF THE RUBBER TREE.

The "India Rubber World" of July 1 says that it is the positive conviction of Maj. J. ORTON KERBEY, who recently returned from a tour of Cuba, that he found on the island the true rubber tree of Central America (*Castilloa elastica*) growing wild. This officer also observes that the conditions for the cultivation of the rubber plant are more favorable in Cuba than even in Mexico or Nicaragua. Major KERBEY pursued his investigations further into the interior of the country than any recent visitor, "being aided in his search for the rubber tree by orders from the Government at Washington, which gave him command of the facilities of the United States military establishment on the island." He says that he particularly noticed the *Castilloa elastica* on the southern coast of the country, while he was informed by old residents of good repute that such trees were to be found in abundance. Moreover, he was assured that in former years *goma* (rubber) figured in the exports, going presumably to Spanish markets.

#### OPENING OF NEW IRON MINES.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" of July 15 notes that the "Cuba Steel Ore Company" has been organized in Philadelphia. According to the company's prospectus, it is proposed to open up two groups of iron mines 45 miles west of Santiago, in the province of the same name, and to build a railway about 10 miles in length, connecting the mines with the harbor of Chivirico, together with piers, docks, etc. These mines are stated to contain about 2,100 acres, and it is believed that over 20,000 tons of ore are in sight. This ore is regarded as high grade Bessemer.

#### ELECTRIC PLANT AT MATANZAS.

A press dispatch sent from Racine, Wisconsin, states that MATTHEW SLUSH, A. W. BISHOP, and other officials of the Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Electric Railway Company, have secured the option for six months on \$750,000 worth of land at Matanzas. Upon this it is proposed to erect a large electric-lighting plant and an immense warehouse, while a system of electric railways will be built from Matanzas to the neighboring towns.

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## ECUADOR.

#### THE TRADE IN MACHINERY.

In response to an inquiry of a firm in Massachusetts, Consul-General DE LEON writes from Guayaquil that there is not a large machine trade in Ecuador. Mr. MANN, a Scotchman, has machine works in Guaya-



quil. There are also a few factories, sugar refineries, and other establishments using steam power in the city and Province. It is reported that the "Ecuador Development Company," 33 Wall street, New York City, is contracting for locomotives and other supplies for the Guayaquil and Quito Railroad. Most of the supplies are ordered from the United States directly or through jobbers. W. R. GRACE & Co., FLINT, EDDY & Co., and other firms, have agencies in Guayaquil. No stock of machinery or machinery supplies worth mentioning is carried, but orders are made from catalogues. Six months' credit is sometimes granted, but cash seems to be the rule for this kind of goods. Importers generally require cash or first class security from their customers.

The imports of steam machinery and appliances from the United States in 1898, according to the Consul's statement, amounted to about \$40,000, gold; about \$20,000 worth more came from European countries. In Mr. DE LEON'S opinion, the two things necessary to increase the trade of the United States with the west coast of South America are competent traveling salesmen and reasonable freight rates. The Panama railroad line, he says, charges 47½ cents per cubic foot; GRACE & Co. and FLINT, EDDY & Co. charge 25 to 30 cents per cubic foot via Magellan Straits. The Consul concludes his report with this observation, that "an Isthmian canal is a vital necessity; only when it is constructed will we (the United States) have the business we should have on this coast."

#### OPENING FOR ELECTRIC PLANTS.

Replying under date of June 12, 1899, to the inquiries of a firm in New York City, Mr. PERRY M. DE LEON, Consul-General of the United States at Guayaquil, says there is no electric power in Guayaquil and as yet no demand for electrical supplies. The Consul is of the opinion, however, that there is an excellent opening for an electric-light and street-railway service. He says that the city is prosperous, has a population of about 50,000, and with the construction of the proposed railroad to Quito is bound to increase in population and wealth. At the present time it is lighted with gas of a poor quality, which costs the municipality a considerable sum annually. A street-car system traverses almost every street, but mules, the motive power, are costly. The finances of the city are said to be in a flourishing condition. The stock of the street railway company was quoted at 50 cents on the dollar in 1896, but there is now a cash reserve equal to 50 per cent of the capitalization. Annual dividends of 15 per cent are declared, and at the time of Mr. DE LEON'S report the stock was worth \$150 per share. Fuel is scarce and expensive, but superb water power is available at some distance from the city. In 1896 the installation of an electric light service was in progress, but a great conflagration, which destroyed 83 blocks of the best part of the city, including the electric plant, caused the enterprise to be abandoned. The burnt district is now

almost wholly rebuilt with a better class of edifices, and, in the opinion of Mr. DE LEON, the time seems propitious for the establishment of a system combining transportation and illumination.

## MEXICO.

### SYNOPSIS OF THE RAILROAD LAW OF 1899.

The Department of State of the United States has received from Gen. POWELL CLAYTON, Ambassador to Mexico, a copy and translation of the new railroad law of the Republic, promulgated April 29, 1899. The law is of considerable length, as it seeks to cover everything connected with the granting of concessions. Regarding this new move on the part of the Mexican Government the Ambassador says that heretofore each concession has been the subject of a special law. The general law will hereafter apply to all new concessions, and to all concessions previously granted the terms of which do not conflict with this law. The new law renders it more difficult to obtain subsidized concessions, and accentuates the control exercised by the Government over companies.

Railroads are divided into those of general and those of local interest. Only the former can be subsidized. Among those of general interest the law designates those of prime importance yet to be constructed. Such are the lines to connect the central network of railroads with the Pacific Ocean and the Isthmns of Tehuantepec, Yucatan, and Guatemala. Lines of prime importance may be subsidized. Other projected lines may be declared to be of prime importance upon the advice of the Cabinet. Formerly the supervision exercised by the Government was technical—to secure regularity of operation and safety of passengers. In the future the inspectors appointed by the Government may also call for an account of the financial operations of companies, issues of shares, their obligations, sinking funds, etc. They will have power to examine the books and all papers relating to the company. This supervision will also be exercised over the formation of new companies. Hereafter a company must first submit to the Government an estimate of the work to be performed on the proposed road, and the amount of capital stock to be issued will be determined from the projected work. It is intended thus to prevent the formation of companies with a capital stock disproportionate to the proposed enterprises. This law forbids, under penalty of forfeiture, the selling or hypothecating of concessions to any foreign country. Any shares, bonds, or obligations purchased by a foreign country shall be forfeited to the Mexican Government. The property of railroads in Mexico shall be subject to the civil code of the Federal District, except as provided by special law.

The law of December 25, 1877, and that of December 16, 1881,

excepting the article relating to the acquirement of telegraph and telephone lines by the Government, are repealed.

For the convenience of persons wishing to familiarize themselves with the text of the law, both the Spanish copy and the translation are on file in the Bureau of the American Republics.

#### THE PROGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC.

The Paris "Voltaire" devotes an article in a recent issue to Mexico, speaking most glowingly of the progress realized in the country during the last twenty-five years, and in part says:

"The revenues of Mexico in 1889-90 were \$22,000,000, and they are now \$54,000,000. In the same period the receipts of the custom-houses have advanced from \$11,000,000 to \$22,000,000. The value of the exports has increased from \$41,000,000 in 1882 to \$130,000,000 in 1897, which figures are very interesting, since, aside from the necessity of establishing her credit, Mexico has had to struggle with the decline of silver. Mexico is not only a producer of the white metal, but maintains silver as her monetary standard, having, on the other hand, to pay her debts in gold."

The article adds that, notwithstanding the above conditions, the country has gone on producing precious metals progressively. The production in 1880 was valued at \$28,000,000, and in 1897 at \$72,000,000. The article ends as follows:

"Her credit has been established, and at this time she occupies a leading place among nations with regard to her commerce, her industries, and her enterprising spirit."

#### EXPORTS FROM PHILADELPHIA DURING 1898-99.

The Bureau of the American Republics is indebted to Mr. E. SUBIKURSKI, Mexican Consul at Philadelphia, for a statement of the merchandise exported to the Mexican Republic through the said port during the fiscal year 1898-99. This report shows that during the year mentioned the invoice value of articles shipped to Mexico was \$744,499.32. The value of manufactured articles, such as bridge material, iron and steel pieces, rails and steel plates, iron scales, plated articles, etc., was \$31,792.80. The value of explosives, including dynamite and powder, was \$93,720; of machinery, \$364.73; of building material, \$35,613.15; of mineral products, including crude, purified, and lubricating mineral oils, crude petroleum, and coal, was \$578,543.43; of chemical products, including liquid ammonia and silicate of soda, \$1,115.12; of cotton, wool, linen, and silk goods, \$3,231.09; of extracts of several kinds, ground mustard, potatoes, and tea, \$119.

#### TRADE WITH NEW YORK IN JUNE, 1899.

Through the courtesy of Señor A. LEON GRAJEDA, Chanceller of the Mexican Consulate-General, New York City, the Bureau of the American

Republics has been furnished with a list of the articles received at the port of New York from the Republic of Mexico during the month of June, 1899. The list embraces the following items: henequén, bales, 1,494; coffee, bags, 12,110; hides, bales, 3,905; hides, loose, 5,360; ixtle, packages, 2,750; goatskins, bales, 1,146; deerskins, bales, 38; rubber, bales, 107; leaf tobacco, bales, 1,766; cigars, packages, 115; zacaton, bales, 1,084; chicle, bales, 2,613; fustic, pieces, 24,575; hair, bales, 64; lead, bars, 69,885; mineral ores, packages, 14,857; sarsaparilla, bales, 309; vanilla, cases, 48; alligator skins, 771; bones, packages, 2,255; heron feathers, cases, 10; honey, barrels, 422; cedar, logs, 2,539; mahogany, logs, 2,333; jalap, sacks, 8; copper, bars, 24,116.

#### IMPORTS FROM SOUTHERN PORTS.

The value of the exports from Mobile, Alabama, to the Republic of Mexico, during the month of July, as kindly reported to this Bureau by Mr. WILLIAM A. LE BARRON, Mexican Consul at that port, was:

July 1, to Progreso.....	\$5,873.00
July 3, to Tampico.....	22,895.00
July 14, to Progreso.....	17,565.00
Total.....	46,333.00

Señor Don VICENTE ROS, Vice-Consul of Mexico at Pascagoula, Mississippi, informs the Bureau that during the month of July last there were no imports from Mexico to that port. The exports therefrom to Mexican ports during the same month were as follows:

	Value.
To Coatzacoalcos, 131,269 sup. feet p. p. lumber.....	\$1,312
To Progreso, 470,983 sup. feet p. p. lumber.....	4,710
To Vera Cruz { 478,632 sup. feet p. p. lumber.....	4,638
{ 12 boxes malt nutrine.....	24
To Campeche { 43,240 sup. feet p. p. lumber.....	511
{ 15,000 pounds general cargo.....	1,261

#### RECAPITULATION.

1,124,124 sup. feet p. p. lumber.....	\$11,171
General cargo.....	1,285
Total.....	12,456

#### TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN IN 1899.

According to the official statistical publication of Great Britain the trade with the Republic of Mexico for the first half of the year 1899 showed an increase over the same period in 1898 in the value of the goods purchased by the latter country. While undoubtedly there were many Mexican products exported to the British markets, they do not figure in the report named, except, perhaps, under general headings. The articles purchased by Mexico include the following items, the value of the purchases in 1898 being also given for the sake of comparison: Cotton manufactures—unbleached piece goods, £1,564 in 1899, and £1,255 in 1898; bleached piece goods, £89,802 in 1899, and £85,612 in

1898; printed piece goods, £74,442 in 1899, and £55,174 in 1898; dyed piece goods, £52,974 in 1899, and £38,501 in 1898; total value of cotton piece goods, £218,782 (\$1,064,593.21) in 1899, and £180,542 (\$878,517.37) in 1898. The value of the linen piece goods shipped in 1899 was £19,829 (\$96,487.71) in 1899, and £19,102 (\$92,950.33) in 1898.

#### MINERAL LOCATIONS IN SONORA.

There are nine mineral or mining districts in the State of Sonora, Mexico, namely: Alamos, Altar, Arizpe, Guaymas, Hermosillo, Magdalena, Moctezuma, Sahuaripa, and Ures. "El Correo de Sonora," in a recent issue, says that the increase in the number of applications for mineral locations in this State since the enforcement of the mining law of 1892 has been very remarkable. During the last few months this has been especially noticeable in the Moctezuma district. From January 1 to April 30, 1899, more than one quarter of the applications filed in the State were made in this district, or 110 out of 381. For the first four months of each year during the past seven years the applications were as follows: 1893, 117; 1894, 91; 1895, 188; 1896, 242; 1897, 195; 1898, 347; 1899, 381. For the whole year the same ratio of increase is found, the total applications in 1893 being 322, and in 1898, 762. That is to say, in the period of six years from 1893 to 1898, inclusive, the increase has been more than 100 per cent in the number of such applications registered.

#### PROFIT IN RAISING CATTLE.

The raising of cattle for market, says Consul-General JOHN K. POLLARD, writing from Monterey to the Department of State, at Washington, is and always has been a profitable business in Mexico, consequent upon low-priced labor, low taxes, and large tracts of cheap land which are suitable for grazing only. Until recently no attempt has been made to improve the stock, but certain large cattle raisers have lately undertaken to do this, and steady improvement is henceforth expected. The demand created during the recent war between the United States and Spain and the higher prices which prevailed in the United States increased the price of cattle to such an extent that the northern States of Mexico became almost depopulated of live stock; so much so that it will require several years of natural increase to bring the number up to the ordinary demands. If so, this means a continuance of high prices for cattle in that section of the Republic. The importations of Mexican cattle into the United States, as stated by Mr. JOSEPH W. PARKER, of the Bureau of Animal Industry of the United States, was 6,831 in June, 1899, as against 7,277 in June, 1898.

#### PROPOSED STEAMSHIP LINE.

Some Kansas City capitalists having interests in the Isthmus of Tehnantepec have recently formed an association to establish a line of

steamers between the isthmus and some Gulf port of the United States connected directly with Kansas City by rail. Among these capitalists are several well-known Americans who are heavy stockholders in the "Mexican Gulf Agricultural Company" and the "Mexican Tropical Planters' Company," which associations own about 63,000 acres of land on the isthmus, where coffee, rubber, and bananas are raised. Their coffee plantations contain 2,000,000 trees, which will soon be yielding. Five thousand acres are planted in bananas. These companies expect to sell all their products in the markets of Kansas City and vicinity, and have decided, therefore, to purchase steamers to run between Coatzacoalcos and Galveston, Port Arthur, or New Orleans.

#### PROPOSED RAILWAY IN YUCATAN.

A lawyer of Campeche, Señor Don LUIS AZNAR CAÑO, has conceived the plan of constructing a railway line from the capital of his State (Campeche) to the Isthmus of Tehmantepec, there to unite with the Inter-Oceanic Line at a station called "El Juile." The line will also have a branch running to the Guatemala frontier. This undertaking will redound largely to the benefit of the commerce and agriculture of the Yucatan peninsula, the products of which will find a good market in the republics of Central America. The subscription lists of this new enterprise are being rapidly filled.

#### THE PRODUCTION OF TEQUILA.

The maguey plant of Mexico has been aptly described by a native writer as one from which the common people secure "food, drink, house, and dress." Persons who have seen specimens of this plant in the botanical gardens of the United States would hardly recognize it on its native heaths, owing to its magnificent proportions. The trunk or stock of the maguey consists of a conical-shaped bulb some 12 inches in diameter by 20 in height, from the base of which numerous sinewy roots extend into the earth. This bulb is called the "corazón or heart," and somewhat resembles a huge pineapple. The inner portion of the heart consists of a juicy vegetable substance, partaking in flavor somewhat of the Swedish turnip, while from its outer rind a series of long, tapering blades radiate in much the same manner as the leaves of the date palm.

The cultivation of the maguey plant for the production of "tequila" is carried on most extensively in the State of Jalisco, in the western part of the Republic. Tequila is an alcoholic liquor, used both for medicinal purposes and as a beverage. In the manufacture of this liquid the blades of the plant are stripped off within 2 inches of the heart, which in turn is sliced off immediately above its roots. The heart of the maguey frequently weighs a quarter of a ton or more, according to "The Two Republics," of Mexico City, which necessitates its being divided into quarters to facilitate its transportation to the

distillery. This is accomplished on the backs of donkeys, the sections of one bulb usually constituting a load. At the distillery the heart is placed in a great oven, where it is thoroughly roasted. Then it is transferred to a separating machine and the juice extracted by pressure. Unlike "pulque," tequila is a perfectly clear liquid and improves in strength and quality with age. The profits and revenues derived from this product, while somewhat less than those of pulque, are still very large. The variety of magney from which tequila is produced being somewhat smaller than that from which pulque is obtained, is grown at the rate of 2,500 to the acre. It can withstand any drought, and hence is raised on land where almost no other vegetation will grow. The largest tequila distilleries are located at the town of Tequila, 40 miles northwest of Guadaluajara, each of which establishments pays the Government a monthly tax of \$500 for the privilege of manufacturing the liquor.

#### PRESERVATION OF PULQUE.

The MONTHLY BULLETIN has many times referred to the great Mexican staple and drink "pulque," and in the July, 1899, number (page 31), mentioned the fact that a Mexican capitalist had asked for a patent on a method for preserving it. Late advices from the City of Mexico are to the effect that two Frenchmen, the Messrs. CHARLON, who have been established in business in that Republic for some years, have demonstrated that they have solved the problem of the preservation of this liquid. A joint-stock company, to be known as "El Magney" with a capital of \$50,000, has been formed in the City of Mexico to place the preserved pulque on the market. There seems to be no doubt that the discovery of the CHARLON Brothers will meet all the claims made for it. The preserved liquid has been submitted to chemical analysis and microscopic examination, and has been found to be pure and unadulterated, its stomachic qualities being even better than the fresh article, and it is confidently believed that the exploitation of the discovery will form another source of wealth for Mexico.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

Important copper mines have been discovered near Ejntala and Niahuatlac, State of Oaxaca.

The well-known archaeologist Professor NIVEN, who has been excavating in various parts of Mexico, reports a very rich gold discovery near Guerrero.

The shipments of rails and street cars from the United States to Mexico have been growing larger nearly every week, as have equipment and material for electric railroads.

The mint of Mexico will very soon issue a new 1-cent piece, which will be of the same size as the present 10-cent piece, but composed of a copper alloy.

The exports of henequén from the port of Progreso during the month

of May were 30,869 bales, of an estimated value of \$1,307,604.49, Mexican currency.

The Mexican Government has contracted with SAMUEL HERMANOS, of New York, for the construction of four new light-houses and a light-house tender for the eastern coast of Yucatan.

The number of citizens of the United States settled in Guadalajara, State of Jalisco, Mexico, is 500, which is the most numerous foreign colony in this the second largest city in the Republic.

"The Mexican Sun," to be published three times a week, and to be devoted to the development of trade and industry between the United States and Mexico, will shortly appear in the city of Mexico.

The City of Mexico is being practically rebuilt, and building permits have been granted to a number in excess of any previous period in its municipal history. A movement is on foot to pave one hundred streets in the city with asphalt.

Stimulated by the privileges granted by the late decree relating to the establishment of new industries in the Republic of Mexico, a Mexican syndicate purposes forming in the country a bicycle and typewriter manufactory.

The Japanese Legation in the City of Mexico is actively engaged in the negotiations tending to commercial reciprocity between Mexico and the Empire of Japan. A plan will soon be presented to the Mexican Government which it is expected will add largely to the trade between the two nations.

An American citizen, who has lived for some years in Tampico, State of Tamaulipas, Mexico, and who is an electrical engineer, recently applied to the authorities of the State for exemption from taxation for a term of years on an electric-light and street-railway plant which he purposes establishing at the city named.

A citizen of the United States has lately applied to the Minister of Promotion of Mexico for a concession to establish an iron-safe manufactory. He is prepared to guarantee the investment of \$250,000 as the working capital, by depositing with the National Bank of Mexico, on the signing of the concession, such sum as the Government may require.

There is a movement on foot in Matamoros, State of Tamaulipas, and the necessary steps have been taken to obtain from the Mexican Government authority to construct a railroad line from the mouth of the Rio Grande to Monterey. This line is to start from Brazos, Tex., will follow the United States frontier to a point in front of Matamoros, and will be prolonged to Monterey.

The remarkable increase in the custom-house receipts and stamp-tax collections in Mexico, and the general excellent condition of the country's finances and business interests, have induced the Equitable and the New York Life Insurance companies, of New York, to return to the Mexican field. Both of these companies in former years did a good business in the neighboring Republic, but about ten years ago they withdrew from the country.



The Governor of the State of Mexico, in the desire to provide that important section of the neighboring Republic with all the advancements of older nations, has commissioned Señor JUAN DE DIOS FERNÁNDEZ to visit New York and the principal cities of Europe, for the purpose of studying the systems employed in manual training schools and charitable institutions, so that like institutions in the State named may be raised to a like plane.

## NICARAGUA.

### THE PRODUCTION OF RUBBER.

The increased demand for rubber in the world and the rapid development of the uses to which the article may be adapted in its refined state are gradually bringing about a revolution in the methods of collecting and curing the crude supply. Until within a few years all the rubber received at United States ports from the Central American countries was collected from trees growing wild in the forests. Such trees were plentiful enough for the Indians, who gathered the product only at such times as they needed supplies necessary for their sustenance. No one then thought of cultivating the tree, nor was it necessary, as the supply was deemed sufficient for the demand. But the partial exhaustion of the forest product made it apparent that something would have to be done to supplement the supply furnished by the Indians. The exports of crude rubber from Nicaragua in 1897, according to statistics obtained by the British Foreign Office at the time, amounted to 159,600 pounds, valued at \$78,856—about 50 cents per pound—and the crop for 1898 was said to be larger in quantity and much greater in value, but no accurate statistics can be obtained.

Several citizens of the United States have located in Nicaragua during the last few years for the purpose of engaging in the cultivation of rubber. One of these pioneers in the business, Mr. G. C. COSSIT, recently returned to the United States, and reports that the prospects for a great increase in the production of rubber are very bright. From a statement given by Mr. COSSIT to the "New Orleans Picayune," July 14, many interesting facts are obtained. He states that "leading northward from Bluefields there is a chain of inland streams, having an average depth of 5 feet, which wind their way among low tropical islands to the base of the Cukira Hill. A creek follows the base of the mountains and gives excellent drainage. The land drained by this stream has been found to be exactly suited to the rubber plant, and is gradually being taken up by foreign investors. The work of clearing is probably the most expensive undertaking, but the wild trees encountered furnish nearly enough seeds for the whole plantation.

"The planter who wishes to open an estate applies for the land to the Bull. No. 2—3

agent of the Government (Jefe Publico) and pays \$1 for each manzana (nearly 2 acres). The surveys are made by the Government at a moderate cost to the individual. The average cost of clearing a manzana is \$15 gold, and about 100 manzanas on each plantation are usually cleared the first year. Some planters only clear a roadway wide enough to plant the young trees, while others have cleared away all the underbrush and are raising the trees from seeds. In the absence of accurate information and with no practical experience to guide them, the work of the pioneer rubber planter has been wholly of an experimental character. Mr. COSSIT has about 25 manzanas under cultivation, the trees being set out in rows 10 feet apart. Mr. HENRY WALDRON, of Canada, has an estate of 100 manzanas farther up the mountain, set out with trees raised from the seed. This planter has met with excellent success, losing only from 10 to 15 per cent of his original planting. Some of his trees are from 8 to 10 feet in height. Messrs. JONES and TOWNSEND, connected with the Manhattan Rubber Company, of New York, have a force of men engaged in clearing a tract of 500 manzanas and expect to have 1,000,000 trees planted. Besides these, there are a number of other smaller plantations containing from 800 to 1,800 trees each.

"A feature of the rubber-planting industry as yet undetermined is the age at which a tree may be tapped without injuring its productiveness. The general belief is that fully ten years is required to enable a tree to reach a diameter of 10 inches, which is the least size tapped, yet it has been demonstrated that trees grown in the open with plenty of sunlight grow much more rapidly than those that are shaded to and great extent. Then, too, cultivation and advantageous localities produce mature trees in six years.

"As yet planters are gathering but little rubber from cultivated trees, but they are obtaining quantities from the wild ones left standing. Upon its first tapping each tree will yield about 1 pound without injury, and as it increases in age the flow becomes greater, sometimes amounting to as much as 3 or 4 pounds. The planters expect that the effects of cultivation will be to increase the annual yield per tree.

"The method of curing the product is at present very crude, but even in this state Nicaraguan rubber brings a higher price than any other variety, excepting that from Para, Brazil."

It is the intention of the Nicaraguan planters to adopt the method employed in the Para districts and in the rubber regions of Bolivia, a full description of which is published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for December, 1897, page 902.

#### SHIPMENTS OF GOLD AND SILVER ORE.

The "Engineering and Mining Journal" of July 15 contains the report of a correspondent in Nicaragua who says that Messrs. ALLEN & FULKS have made the first shipment of ore from their El Mico

mine to the Omaha and Grant Smelting Company at Denver, Colorado. This shipment of 16 sacks assays 12.05 ounces of gold and 13.6 ounces of silver per ton. The firm expects to make another and larger shipment within a short time.

#### APPOINTMENT OF NEW CONSULS.

A press correspondent writing from Managua under date of June 30, 1899, says that the following persons have been named as Consuls from Nicaragua at the posts mentioned, and that they would start about July 16 for their destinations: Dr. PEDRO BERMÚDEZ, New York City; Dr. MANUEL MALDONADO, Hamburg; Don RAMON ROSTRAS, London; Don HECTOR S. TORRES, Paris; Don ROBERT BONE, Liverpool; Don LUIS COUSIN, San Francisco. As yet no appointment has been made to the New Orleans consulate. The appointees are all young men. Dr. BERMÚDEZ received a medical education in Philadelphia, and Señor COUSIN is a brother-in-law of President ZELAYA. In addition to their other duties, Nicaragua's consular representatives usually act as purchasing agents for their Government.

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## PARAGUAY.

#### PRODUCTION OF SUGAR.

Mr. WILLIAM HARRISON, Vice-Consul for the United States at Asunción, writes the Department of State at Washington, under date of May 17, relative to the production of sugar cane and the manufacture of sugar. He says that the cane is being cultivated in Paraguay to a greater extent than ever before. Each stalk is about 2 inches in diameter and from 6 to 8 feet high. One ton of sugar cane will produce 35 to 40 gallons of juice, and each gallon of juice will net 1½ pounds of sugar. The cane is of good variety and makes fine sugar and rum. There is only one sugar mill in the Republic, and as it can not supply the demand the importation of sugar is very large, most of it coming from France. The sugar made in the country sells at a very high price, and with mills similar to those of the United States, and with skilled labor, the quality could be greatly improved. Common labor is cheap, but skilled workmen are not procurable.

Mr. HARRISON then gives an estimate of the cost of a sugar plantation. For the first year the capital required is given at \$20,240; for the second, \$96,960, and for the third, \$20,800, or a total of \$138,000. This embraces everything, including 3 leagues of agricultural land, 8 miles of plantation railway, 2 engines and 50 trucks, a steam launch, wharf and barges, all the buildings, machinery, horses and other animals, carts, office expenses, freight, insurance, etc. He estimates that the mill and plantation will produce 40,000 arrobas (100,000 pounds) of

sugar, at \$1.10—\$44,000—and 6,000 demijohns of alcohol, at \$3—\$18,000—or a total of \$62,000. From this must be deducted \$22,800 working expenses (which he itemizes) and \$27,544 interest, leaving a net profit of \$11,650 at the end of the third year.

Mr. JOHN RUFFIN, the United States Consul at Asunción, adds to Mr. HARRISON'S report the following:

"The sugar mill (referred to above) has been subsidized by the Government through the Agricultural Bank to the amount of \$260,000 paper. It is situated on Tebicuary River and the Paraguayan Central Railway, thus affording easy transportation. It is lighted by electricity and has invested capital to the amount of \$1,306,500. A report issued by the sugar factory asserts that \$100,000 (gold) worth of sugar is imported each year into the country. The company is in need of funds to conduct business, its capital seeming to have been spent in the erection and equipment of the buildings. A sugar enterprise would be profitable in Paraguay, because it would be almost without competition, and should the supply be greater than the demand, the juice can be utilized in making caña, the national drink of the country."

#### AN IMMIGRANT'S OBSERVATIONS.

Through the Department of State of the United States the Bureau of the American Republics has been furnished a copy of a letter forwarded by Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH, Minister to Uruguay and Paraguay, which he thinks would be of interest to many persons who write him with reference to agricultural possibilities in Paraguay. The communication is from Mr. J. WAVRUNK, a citizen of the United States who formerly lived in the State of Wisconsin. He says:

"My residence in this country now extends over a period of eight months, having arrived here in August, 1898, and thus far myself and family have enjoyed the best of health. We have passed through the hot summer months with less discomfort than we ever did in Wisconsin. Though January and February are undeniably hot months, yet I believe the temperature here in Colonia Gonzalez has never risen above 96 degrees, and the nights are uniformly cool. There has been plenty of rain during all this time. Paraguay seldom suffers from drought, anyway. In short, I consider the climate one of the healthiest in the world and admirably suited to people from the Northern part of the United States. We very seldom hear of any one being sick, except perhaps an occasional case of "chuchu," a sort of mild fever, no worse than a cold.

"It would be a hard matter for me to say whether or not I should advise anyone from the United States to come here to engage in farming. While the country itself, with its soil, climate, timber, etc., is all that can be desired, yet it is undeveloped. There are no manufactories or markets to speak of, and the conditions are so vastly different from what they are at home that where some may like it very much, others

might not. I believe it all depends upon the future. Should emigration continue capital will surely flow in, and with commerce and railroads the country will be the finest on earth, and there will be no dearth of opportunities to make money at farming, stock raising, and other things. Then, also, the farmer could live better. As it is now, those things which the farmer and laborer in the United States consider necessities are here either luxuries or can not be obtained at all.

"For instance, not one colonist in ten has either milk, butter, or cheese to eat. Pork and lard are luxuries which only the older settlers who raise their own pigs can enjoy. A colonist can not afford wheat bread, except perhaps occasionally, and must depend upon corn bread instead. Sugar, coffee, and tea are all very dear. Most people drink *maté* (which is really very good and a good substitute for tea and coffee), sweetened or not, as they can afford. The farmer's wife here can not put up a lot of preserves, jams, etc., for the winter, for the reason that she can not afford to buy the sugar. On the other hand, beef is cheap and of remarkably good quality, and the staple food, *mandioca*, is a very fine vegetable, from which various good dishes can be prepared. It is a perfect substitute for potatoes, and to my notion far more delicious.

"In speaking as above, I simply state the conditions as they are in this colony, and have in view what the emigrant coming here with a few hundred dollars would have to expect. Of course, if one is willing to live plainly he need have no fear of want, and in due time his condition would certainly become better. It is comparatively easy to get a start, and the colonist that will put up with those things can lead a life of comparative ease and be perfectly independent.

"Then, again, the social life is different from what the American farmer has been accustomed to. The facilities for education are not very good. There is a public school where rudimentary instruction is given, but it can not be compared in efficiency to our district schools at home.

"The newcomer from the United States will be apt to find it rather hard at first, not being able to speak the language of the country; but nearly all nationalities are represented here, and he will have no difficulty in finding some one to whom he can talk, and the Spanish language is soon acquired. This colony contains 205 families, the greater portion being Germans.

"To repeat: Whether this country is a desirable field for emigration from the United States is, as I look at it, a question as to what the future will bring forth. Nature has lavished her gifts on Paraguay with a bountiful hand, and if man will only develop them this country can be made a paradise. For that we must wait, however.

"If a colony of twenty or thirty families should come together and settle in one place, the difficulties and discomforts which a single settler experiences would be very largely obviated."

## PERU.

## SKETCHES OF THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND OF THE FIRST AND SECOND VICE-PRESIDENTS-ELECT.

At the Presidential election in Peru, which took place in May last, Don EDUARDO LOPEZ DE ROMAÑA was elected President, to succeed Don NICOLÁS DE PIÉROLA, and Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA and Don FEDERICO BRESANI were elected First and Second Vice-Presidents, respectively. The only candidate for the Presidency was Señor ROMAÑA. The newly elected officials will be inaugurated in September next.

Don EDUARDO LÓPEZ DE ROMAÑA was born in Arequipa on May 19, 1849. His parents were Don JUAN MANUEL LÓPEZ DE ROMAÑA and Señora JOSEFA ALVISURI BUSTAMANTE, members of the highest social circles of the city. He was 10 years of age when he was sent to England, to the celebrated Stonyhurst College. From this institution he went to the Royal Institute of Engineers at London, where he obtained the degree of civil engineer and became an honorary member of the institution. His professional knowledge was the cause of his being sent to Brazil by a syndicate which was building a railroad line in the mountains of that country. Of the 30 engineers sent there, 21 died, owing to the unhealthy climate and the rough work they were called upon to perform. Señor ROMAÑA then showed his hardy constitution, for he withstood the conditions of his surroundings for more than three years. Upon his return to Arequipa he devoted himself to the management of one of the plantations belonging to his family in the Tambo Valley. While thus engaged the war with Chile broke out, and Señor ROMAÑA was appointed commanding general of the division which operated on the coast as far as Mollendo, having under his command the whole Tambo Valley. He took an active part in the expedition which compelled the Chileans to reembark at Mollendo. Residing in Arequipa after the war, he was elected President of the Liberal Club of that city, and was most efficient in the reorganization of this body. He served three terms as the Director of Public Charities in Arequipa, through the votes of both Conservatives and Liberals. He was twice elected Municipal Alcade of Arequipa, but was compelled to resign, on the first occasion because he was engaged in the reorganization of the charities, and on the second because he was deeply interested in completing the work of bringing water from Yumina to Arequipa. After the revolution which triumphed on May 17, 1895, Señor ROMAÑA became a candidate for Deputy for the Province of Arequipa, and was unanimously elected. The Congress elected him First Vice-President of the Chamber of Deputies. When the Ministry of Public Works was created, the President designated him for this portfolio, the duties of which he conducted with devotion and skill.

Dr. ISAAC ALZAMORA is less than 50 years of age and a lawyer, as

is also his younger brother and his father, who was a judge for many years. He has been a Deputy and Minister of Foreign Relations, having taken a more or less active part in politics for the past fifteen years. He belongs to the Civil party, in which figure persons of the highest social standing, and enjoys great distinction from this fact, as well as because of his talents and learning. His law office is one of the leading, if not the most prominent one in Peru.

DON FEDERICO BRESANI is a merchant of Lima, a prominent and distinguished man, who has belonged to the Civil party from its foundation, but he has only taken part in politics of late years. He has been Prefect of Lima and a Minister of Piérola.

#### BRITISH REPORT ON THE TRADE OF THE REPUBLIC.

In June, 1899, the British Government published, as No. 2298 of its series of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, the annual reports of Mr. ALFRED ST. JOHN, chief British Consular Officer at Lima, and of the Consuls of Great Britain at Callao, Iquitos, Cerro de Pasco, Piura, Salaverry, Pacasmayo, Huanchaco, Pisco, Mollendo, and Arequipa, a resumé of which are here given.

Mr. ST. JOHN says that it has not been possible to ascertain the exact income and expenditures of the Republic for 1898 inasmuch as the full data had not, up to the time of his report, been received by the Peruvian Department of Finances, but that it would be fair to estimate that they were about equal, each amounting to £1,100,000 (\$5,352,600). The values and destinations of the imports and exports for 1897, as given in the British report, correspond to the figures given in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for September, 1898 (p. 431). In that year nearly one-half of the total trade of the Republic was with Great Britain, but "a change has occurred recently." Formerly nearly all the sugar produced was shipped to England, but in 1898 this trade was diverted, to a considerable extent to the United States, where more remunerative prices were obtained. The report says the measure adopted by the Peruvian Government for the introduction of a gold standard (see MONTHLY BULLETIN, February, 1899, p. 1398) continues to have the effect of maintaining the exchange at almost a fixed rate, but the expectation that the supply of gold coin will soon be such as to increase the existing stock sufficiently for all currency purposes has not been realized. The amount of gold coin at the Lima mint at the close of 1898 was £40,103 (\$195,141), while it was estimated that there were about £150,000 (\$729,900) in sovereigns deposited in the banks and in possession of the Republic. Those who formerly believed in the scheme are of the opinion that the influx of gold specie will continue steadily, and that, at no remote period, all transactions will be in gold coin.

In the way of public improvements, it is reported that a cart road is being constructed between Siemam and the city of Cuzco, which will be 90 miles in length and will pass through the Provinces of Canchas,

Quispicanchis, and Cuzco. This road is about  $5\frac{1}{2}$  yards wide, level in most places, hard, and thoroughly well protected by dams and drains. It is completed as far as the village of Urcos, and four-wheeled wagons, with a capacity of 4 tons each, leave Sicnani and Urcos daily. When completed, the road will be controlled by "La Compañía de Transportes del Sur, Limitada," and the journey to the two extreme points will be made in two days. At Cusipata, the halfway station, a suitable hotel will be built for the accommodation of passengers. A steam launch carrying the mails to and from the Amazonian region is now running with considerable regularity to Port Bermudez on the Pichas River, and Iquitos on the Amazon. The telegraph system is being gradually extended, and at the end of the year 1898 there were 1,928 miles of wire in working order. A very fine and convenient building for the general post and telegraph office was completed in 1898, though it was commenced a great many years ago, and has cost a great deal of money.

The coffee crop in the Perené and Chanchamayo districts during the year was 2,700,000 pounds forwarded to Lima. It is believed that this output would have been more than doubled had there been a sufficient number of laborers to gather the crop. The producers are discouraged by the low prices received and the difficulties of transportation to the coast.

The population of the Province of Callao, according to the census of 1898, is 28,932, of whom 15,469 are males and 13,463 females. The foreigners number 2,918.

The report from Iquitos was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, 1899 (p. 2176).

In Cerro de Pasco copper-ore mining is increasing. It is retarded to a great extent, however, by the limited means of transportation to the Central Railway at Oroya and Casabalea. At present about 800 tons per month are sent to these points for transshipment to Callao. The grades of ores continue fine, some of them containing as much as 45 per cent of copper. The cost of getting the ore from the mine banks is about 10 shillings per ton. Silver mining has declined to a great extent during the past year, as owners of the animals employed to carry ore to the various mills have found it more to their advantage to transport copper ore. The total amount produced in 1898 was 1,000,704 ounces, a decline from 1897 of 269,544 ounces, and from 1896 of 381,176 ounces.

In the Piura district the Vice-Consul reports that a considerable number of new oil wells were sunk during the year, and that the yield of good oil has been very much increased; also that a very decided improvement in the quality of kerosene manufactured is noticeable. It has been improved so much that little difficulty is experienced in finding a ready market for it. It is also reported that exports to the United States are steadily increasing. The exports in 1898, valued in United States currency, were: Goatskins, \$198,780.27; raw cotton,



\$151,705.72; ox hides, \$15,219.64; straw hats, \$1,666; cocoa, \$416.50; coffee, \$325.70; tobacco samples, \$19; grand total, \$368,132.83. The official value of goods imported direct to Salaverry amounted to £65,090 (\$316,728). More than half of the imports were from Great Britain and but one-tenth from the United States. The value of the imports from the United States is given at 62,143 soles (\$25,975.77). The imports from the United States included bicycles, machinery, electrical apparatus, and general merchandise.

The declared value of the quantity of goods exported amounted to £450,029 (\$2,189,841). To the United States the exports were: Sugar, 11,036,463 kilos, valued at 1,196,269 soles; 43,205 kilos of minerals, valued at 18,214 soles; 920 kilos of coffee, valued at 299 soles; 92 kilos of cocoa, valued at 29 soles.

The year 1898 was not a good season for the production of sugar, and, although the area of cultivation had been considerably increased, the production shows a notable falling off. The quantity exported from Salaverry and Huanchaco in 1898 was 42,914,569 kilos, a decrease of 5,992,684 kilos. The exportation of rum and alcohol was 575,474 kilos in 1898, or a decrease from 1897 of 91,385 kilos. The increase in the exportation of cocoa in 1898 was 36,153 kilos, or a total of 258,418 kilos. The quantity of ore and sulphides exported was 239,707,600 kilos, valued at 105,681 soles, a decrease in number of kilos of 14,798,400, and an increase in valuation of 31,217 soles. The quantity of coffee shipped was 63,167 kilos, a decrease of 20,574 kilos. There was a falling off in the exportation of wool from 33,082 kilos in 1897 to 28,362 kilos in 1898. Cereals have been shipped to the amount of 237,587 kilos.

From Pacasmayo the report is made that the importations amounted to 403,091 soles, of which 27,298 soles were from the United States. The exports to all countries amounted to 851,217 soles, of which the United States received 227,515 soles.

Exports from Huanchaco to the United States were 152,055 kilos of sugar, valued at 16,630 soles. The Vice-Consul at Cuzco says that the trade with the United States is increasing steadily, and that there are now two lines of steamers trading between Cuzco and New York. The railway from the port of Tambo de Mora to Chinchá Alta has been finished during the past year, the locomotives and rolling stock of the line having been supplied by the United States. The output of silver in this Department seems to be on the decline. Salt deposits are being very actively worked. A project for the manufacture of caustic soda in the Ica District is under consideration; the necessary raw material is to be found in large quantities.

From Mollendo the shipments during the past year to the port of New York have been 111,252 kilos of cocoa leaves, 23,256 kilos of anti-mony ores, 1,240 kilos of medical herbs, 230 kilos of coffee, 201 kilos of goat skins, and 174 kilos of sundries. Bolivian coin was also shipped

to the amount of \$1,946.40, United States currency. The shipments of cinchona, or Peruvian bark, from this port increased eightfold. Some half dozen mines, supposed to contain gold, have been taken up in the vicinity of this port during the past year. A tramway up the Tambo Valley is proposed, and a branch railway from Vitor Station on the road to Arequipa is being built to run into and through the valley of Vitor, a very rich crop-growing district, where wines and spirits are made in large quantities. A cotton factory has been erected at Haico, and a new industry has been established at the mineral bath of Yura. The waters from the mineral wells at this point are being bottled and exported. A soap factory has also been established and is doing moderately well.

From Arequipa the Vice-Consul reports that the price of wool during the year was, on an average, about 32 soles per 100 pounds. The quantity shipped was 4,453,250 pounds, valued at 1,425,040 soles. In 1897 the exports were 4,702,470 pounds, valued at 1,880,988 soles. This was not all the product, but the remainder is being held with the hope of obtaining a higher price in 1899. The exports of vicuña wool or hair were 4,240 pounds, bringing an average of 80 cents per pound. The shipments of cocoa leaves (principally to Hamburg) have amounted to 617,000 pounds. Borate of lime to the amount of 15,493,900 pounds, worth \$24.33 per ton, or a little more than 1 cent per pound, was shipped from this district through the port of Mollendo. The number of hides shipped was 34,029, averaging about 4 soles each. A large proportion of these came from Bolivia. In addition to the items above enumerated, there were shipments of silver, copper and lead ores, gold dust, bar silver, and coffee. The bulk of the gold dust was sent to Lima for coinage.

#### THE OROYA AND CERRO DE PASCO RAILROAD.

Mr. ERNEST THORNDYKE has signed a contract with the Government of Peru for the construction of a railroad between Oroya and Cerro de Pasco, which will place this great mineral region in direct and rapid communication with the port of Callao. Mr. THORNDYKE has deposited as a guaranty for the faithful performance of the contract the sum of 300,000 soles in bonds of the Internal Debt. The road is to be finished in 1903, when the exports in minerals will largely increase, due to traffic facilities. This is the first case of a work of this nature being undertaken in Peru with capital furnished by private parties and without any aid from the Public Treasury. This railroad was projected more than thirty years ago, when Peru was enjoying its greatest prosperity; but it has not been possible to initiate the work until now, when it comes to give testimony of the economic progress of the country in late years, growing out of the development of its resources. The decree of the Government for the construction of this railway line was published in the MONTHLY BULLETIN for June, pp. 2171-73.

**RAILWAYS ADVANTAGEOUS TO MINING.**

According to an article in the "Courrier du Pérou" of June 8, 1899, the Peruvian Government addressed a communication through its Minister of Fomento (Promotion) to the National Mining Company, asking whether it would not be more advantageous to establish smelting furnaces instead of building the proposed railroad from Oroya to Cerro de Pasco, to which the company replied, in part:

"The five smelting furnaces which exist actually being private property and destined in consequence to the use of certain mines, the greater part of the miners concentrate their operations to exporting ore, and owing to the difficulties of transportation, and especially on account of the exorbitant prices demanded, they can now only handle those of high grade. Because of this the actual production of ores for export, the standard varying between 30 and 44 per cent, is estimated at 1,500 metric tons per month. As to the ores for use in the smelting furnaces, of which the standard varies between 18 and 30 per cent, the monthly average is about 700 tons."

The company also stated:

"We can positively assure you that the quantity of ores of a standard of 20 per cent and upward in sight in the mines under development is fabulous. It is, therefore, self-evident that if there existed furnaces on a large scale, with a railroad from Cerro de Pasco to Oroya and Casapalen, the monthly production would almost immediately rise to 4,000 or 5,000 metric tons.

"This company believes that all that is necessary to assure the prosperity of the mineral basin of Cerro de Pasco is the construction of the contemplated railroad."

In regard to the production of coal, the managers of the company say that up to the present time the mines have not been seriously examined, and consequently it would be well for the Government to appoint a commission to thoroughly investigate them. "According to the opinions of eminent geologists there is an abundance of coal of good quality."

This report of the National Mining Company, in response to the inquiry of the Government, was dated April 23, 1899, and on May 5 the Government called for proposals for the construction of the railroad, the conditions, etc., of which were published in detail in the June BULLETIN, page 2171-73.

**THE MINING INDUSTRY.**

Mining in Peru is one of the chief industries of the country, as it offers an inexhaustible field for the energetic capitalist, whether native or foreign. According to a recent number of the "Nouveau Monde," mineral deposits are found all over the country, such as gold, silver, coal, and petroleum wells, which in the aggregate form a most impor-

tant source of wealth. From data recently published it appears that the number of mines in working condition and mining claims recorded amounts to 2,314. These figures, however, do not give the exact number of mines found in Peru, as not a day passes without a new discovery.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The estimated revenues from all sources of Peru for the year 1899 are £1,185,264 5s. 52d.

The bourse of Lima has named delegates to represent it at the National Export Exposition and International Commercial Congress, to be held at Philadelphia in October next. They are Messrs. A. G. HETHERINGTON and J. MESTERN.

It is announced that a deposit of native sulphur, which upon analysis has yielded 75.945 per cent of the article, has been discovered in the department of Piura. The mineral contains carbonate and sulphate of lime and of soda. In this regard "Le Courrier du Pérou" says: "We do not know when Peru will come to know all her natural riches; it seems to us that she never will."

## SALVADOR.

#### RECENT TARIFF DECREE.

Mr. JOHN JENKINS, Consul for the United States at San Salvador, under date of June 11, 1899, forwarded to the Department of State at Washington a translation of the recent decrees of Salvador with reference to the tariff. The decree of April 28, 1899, reads as follows:

"The National Assembly of the Republic of Salvador, considering that in order to protect the industry of the country it is necessary to make some alterations to the tariff of custom-house duties (tarifa de aforos) now in force, using the faculties granted by the constitution, decrees:

"The tariff now in force is hereby altered in the following terms:

	l'esos.	U. S. cur- rency.
Cotton, in drills of every description.....per kilogram..	0.75	= \$0.332
Cotton, in stuffs (as mantadril), white or colored, striped or checked, per kilogram.....	.75	= .332
Cotton, in towels, bedclothes, napkins, tablecloth or stuffs therefor, per kilogram.....	.60	= .265
Linen, pure or mixed, in white or colored drills.....per kilogram..	.60	= .265

"This decree will come into legal force on the day of publication."

The following is the decree of May 26, 1899:

"The President of the Republic of Salvador, considering that it is to the interest of the Republic to facilitate the importation of raw

materials employed in the industries of the country and to tax the introduction of those produced or manufactured therein, decrees:

"ARTICLE I. The introduction of the following articles will be free of duties and taxes:

"Manure; cotton, raw, white or colored, for weaving or in yarn; iron vessels for balsam; filters and distillers of every description; scientific instruments of every description; weaving frames of every description; printing and lithographic inks; prepared chalk for use in schools.

"ART. II. There will be a 50 per cent reduction of the duties on the following articles:

"Steel in bars, sheets, or plates; sulphur in pieces; cotton tape, plain or twilled, white or colored, for shoemakers and saddlers, and tape commonly called 'de castilla;' tar of all kinds; empty common bottles and demijohns; whalebone, finished or raw; buttons of mother-of-pearl, silk, wool, or of any description not specified; copper hooks and eyes of every description; copper and brass in bars and sheets; glue of every kind; cork in all forms; tanned leather, dressed sheep-skin, morocco or chamois leather for shoes, upper leather, and any other kind of skins, dressed and unvarnished, not specified; elastic for shoes or other uses; rushes, straw, and palm for furniture; thermometers and test tubes for liquors; cardboard for bookbinding, lithography, photography, or any other industrial use; paper for making flowers; grind or whet stones, for sharpening razors or tools; ramie, in thread or raw; silk, twisted or raw, and every kind of silk thread, on spools or cardboard, and silken network for sieves; soda, or caustic potash, for use in industry; poison for tanning skins.

"ART. III. A 50 per cent surtax will be charged on the following articles:

"Cotton bedclothes, towels, cloaks, hammocks, napkins, and tablecloths; cotton lace, cloth, and embroidery; cotton shawls, and stuffs to make them with; pillows and mattresses of feathers, wool, bristles, or any other material; bitters; plows, machetes, and cutlasses, to be used for work; coffee-pots, napkin rings, tumblers, candlesticks (*candeleros y palmatarias*), of tin; manufactures in tortoise shell of every description; preserved meats and shellfish; wax candles; locks and keys for doors; candies and preserves; envelopes; manufactures in leather, shoes, leggings, boots, belts, with or without trimming or ornaments of gold or silver, including those of patent leather, patent or common leather straps of every description, saddles, stirrup leathers, harnesses, headstalls, halters, cruppers, pistol pockets, reins, powder flasks, cases, gear of leather, rugs, hides, pelts, and, in general, any article manufactured of tanned or patent leather; sweets; iron spurs; artificial flowers; flowers of any kind; fireworks; bridles of any kind for horses; sirups of any kind, without alcohol; furniture of wood, with or without parts of marble of any description (wood prepared in pieces for furniture will be considered as furniture and taxed as such); iron daggers and poniards, picks (*picos*), axes, and pieces for connecting saddle bows; implements or articles for domestic use of tin; combs of every description of tortoise shell; bunches of feathers prepared as dusters; ready-made suits of any material; tallow candles; silk, pure or mixed, in shawls, capes, waists, and jackets; cheese and butter; vinegar.

"ART. IV. This decree will be applied on all kinds of goods coming into the Republic from the 1st of next September."

## SANTO DOMINGO.

## ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT HEUREAUX.

General ULISES HEUREAUX, President of the Dominican Republic, Santo Domingo, was assassinated at Moca, a town about 40 miles south of Puerto Plata, on July 26, 1899. The President was about to leave for Santiago when he was killed, while seated under the gallery of a house in the Rue Colon talking to friends. One bullet struck the heart of the President, killing him instantly, and the other killed an old man by his side, the deed being done so quickly that those present were not able to interfere in time to prevent it. The Vice-President of the Republic, General WENCESLAO FIGUERO, immediately assumed the Presidential functions.

ULISES HEUREAUX was born in Puerto Plata, on the west coast of Santo Domingo, in 1846. He entered the military service when he was 16 years old, as a private, but was soon appointed commandant in the District of Puerto Plata. He fought in the war with Spain from 1868 to 1874, was exiled for political reasons twice, and spent two years in private life. In 1878 he took command to put down a Spanish uprising, was wounded a number of times, and narrowly escaped assassination. In 1882 he was elected President of the Republic as the successor of FERNANDO A. MERINO, and was reelected four times, the last time in 1898. In 1894 he foiled a desperate effort to kill him led by a man named BOBADILLA.

## THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY.

"El Teléfono," of Santo Domingo, of a recent date, has a leading article relating to the agriculture of the island, which, reviewing the supply of domestic products in the Hamburg market, deprecates the fact that they always demand the lowest price in European markets, and asks to what such conditions are due, answering the question in this wise: "To many causes. Agricultural education, in the first place, does not exist in this country. Our small farmers, ignorant of the most rudimentary rules of the agricultural industries, almost totally unacquainted with the simplest farming implements, sow and reap perfunctorily, as did our ancestors fifty years ago." The article states that capital, which is meagre, is invested in trade and manufacturing, and not in agriculture, an inexhaustible source of wealth, and the greater part of the plantations are small plots of ground, whose proprietors are generally persons with little capital. "It is indispensable," continues the article, "that our Government shall give its principal attention to the transcendental subject of our agricultural development and progress. We are called upon to be, rather than a manufacturing or commercial people, an agricultural people. Our civilization, our advancement, must be the result, aside from public instruction, of agri-

culture. Land is the first productive element of wealth, the greatest element. And since land is the prime productive element of wealth, let us bend all our efforts to make the land productive; and since the agricultural industry is above all other industries, let us found institutions of agricultural industry, without prejudice to the institutions which manufacture and commerce may require. \* \* \* To labor for the progress of our agriculture is to labor for the general advancement of the country."

#### DUTIES PAYABLE IN GOLD.

The Department of State at Washington has received a report from Mr. CAMPBELL L. MAXWELL, Consul-General for the United States, dated Santo Domingo, June 24, 1899, to the effect that the Dominican Congress has passed an act which requires the import duties to be paid in United States gold; or, otherwise, in the current money of the Republic, \$6 of which shall be considered to be equal to \$1 gold. The former rate was \$2 for \$1 gold. The act was to have taken effect July 1, 1899.

### UNITED STATES.

#### TRADE WITH LATIN AMERICA.

##### STATEMENT OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The following is the latest statement, from figures compiled by the Bureau of Statistics, United States Treasury Department, O. P. AUSTIN, Chief, showing the value of the trade between the United States and the Latin-American countries. The report is for the month of June, 1899, corrected to July 27, 1899, with a comparative statement for the corresponding period of the previous year; also for the twelve months ending June 30, 1899, compared with the corresponding period of the fiscal year 1898. It should be explained that the figures from the various custom-houses, showing imports and exports for any one month, are not received at the Treasury Department until about the 20th of the following month, and some time is necessarily consumed in compilation and printing, so that the returns for June, for example, are not published until some time in July.

##### IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Chemicals:</b>				
Logwood ( <i>Palo campeche</i> ; <i>Páu campeche</i> ; <i>Campeche</i> )—				
Mexico .....	\$222	\$1,515	\$21,922	\$22,853
Coal, bituminous ( <i>Carbón bituminoso</i> ; <i>Carrão betuminoso</i> ; <i>Charbon de terre</i> ):				
Mexico .....	20,377	15,576	200,728	234,884

## IMPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Cocoa (Cacao; Cacao ou Cacao cru; Cacao):</b>				
Central America.....				\$8,597
Brazil.....	\$3,731	\$13,824	\$173,846	646,756
Other South America.....	144,300	131,802	1,203,376	1,378,604
<b>Coffee (Café; Cafè; Cafê):</b>				
Central America.....	266,467	441,683	4,459,183	5,368,711
Mexico.....	163,745	235,340	3,599,392	2,686,248
Brazil.....	2,402,725	2,969,139	40,956,963	35,253,010
Other South America.....	722,997	680,108	9,276,212	7,217,590
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured (Algodón en rama; Algodão em rama; Coton, non manufacturé):</b>				
South America.....	2,118	3,302	123,771	136,776
<b>Fibers:</b>				
<b>Sisal grass (Henequén; Henequen; Hennequen)—</b>				
Mexico.....	1,905,641	540,970	5,104,223	8,902,213
Philippine Islands.....	322,199	60,692	3,092,285	3,404,338
<b>Fruits:</b>				
<b>Bananas (Plátanos; Bananas; Bananes)—</b>				
Central America.....	199,379	239,290	1,569,749	1,816,843
South America.....	8,750	146,226	103,692	732,431
<b>Oranges (Naranjas; Laranjas; Oranges)—</b>				
Mexico.....	18	2,454	134,672	139,644
<b>Fur skins (Pielés finas; Pelles; Fourrures):</b>				
South America.....	24,125	19,443	62,973	151,704
<b>Hides and skins (Cueros y pieles; Couros e pelles; Cuirs et peaux):</b>				
Central America.....	15,915	40,242	193,874	287,557
Mexico.....	119,584	123,216	1,698,574	1,879,750
South America.....	1,065,940	1,449,873	9,178,328	10,447,178
<b>India rubber, crude (Goma elástica; Borracha crua; Caoutchouc brut):</b>				
Central America.....	37,006	71,186	419,742	855,145
Mexico.....	8,063	15,907	41,901	142,887
Brazil.....	517,124	872,370	14,980,875	16,999,345
Other South America.....	49,384	68,343	622,641	951,737
<b>Lead, in pigs, bars, etc. (Plomo en galápagos, barras, etc.; Chumbo em linguados, barras, etc.; plombs en saumons, en barres, etc.):</b>				
Mexico.....	79,984	139,016	1,601,458	1,908,111
<b>Sugar, not above No. 16 Dutch standard (Azúcar, no superior al No. 16 de la escala holandesa; Açúcar não superior ao No. 16 de padrão holandês; Sucre, pas au-dessus du type hollandais No. 16):</b>				
Central America.....	38,372	54,988	195,140	158,639
Mexico.....	6,466	10,247	44,598	52,976
Cuba.....	221,216	2,606,213	9,828,607	16,412,088
Brazil.....	192,619		2,317,987	810,276
Other South America.....	309,874	252,577	3,940,648	5,341,713
Hawaiian Islands.....	2,201,268	2,903,686	16,729,752	17,287,683
Philippine Islands.....	66,770		381,279	969,323
<b>Tobacco, leaf (Tabaco en rama; Tabaco em folha; Tabac en feuilles):</b>				
Mexico.....	28,603	1,171	259,279	229,554
Cuba.....	26,073	483,604	2,848,524	4,964,529
<b>Wood, mahogany (Caoba; Mogno; Acajou):</b>				
Central America.....	2,602	5,004	141,724	369,126
Mexico.....	28,986	70,246	309,493	413,222
Cuba.....		10,624	1,766	33,671
South America.....	30,112	1,937	71,569	16,696
<b>Wool (Lana; Lã; Laine):</b>				
<b>South America—</b>				
Class 1 (clothing).....	1,845	198,419	841,377	478,180
Class 2 (combing).....	18,813		28,411	106
Class 3 (carpet).....	194,238	131,262	862,321	459,429



## BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

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## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Agricultural implements (<i>Instrumentos de agricultura; Instrumentos de agricultura; Machines agricoles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$403	\$166	\$14,910	\$6,244
Mexico.....	10,076	20,603	124,368	222,476
Santo Domingo.....	23	144	1,079	735
Cuba.....		11,412	7,817	43,104
Porto Rico.....		716	2,504	2,955
Argentina.....	15,249	225,785	377,054	1,679,019
Brazil.....	780	803	24,755	34,130
Colombia.....	1,047	5	4,843	1,540
Other South America.....	20,253	11,379	196,054	284,204
<b>Animals:</b>				
<b>Cattle (<i>Ganado vacuno; Gado; Betail</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....			7,058	3,485
Mexico.....	9,700	8,059	78,400	98,920
South America.....	250		7,462	5,193
<b>Hogs (<i>Cerdos; Porcos; Cochons</i>)—</b>				
Mexico.....	45	26,156	44,487	87,642
<b>Horses (<i>Caballos; Cavallos; Chevanx</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	750	200	12,795	6,228
Mexico.....	7,425	3,795	77,090	81,849
South America.....		720	5,700	4,559
<b>Sheep (<i>Carneros; Carneiros; Montons</i>)—</b>				
Mexico.....	238	31	9,748	11,525
South America.....	2,095	850	12,409	8,620
<b>Books, maps, engravings, etc. (<i>Libros, mapas, grabados, etc.; Livros, mapas, gravuras, etc.; Livres, cartes de géographie, gravures, etc.</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	433	684	34,264	41,103
Mexico.....	5,858	1,943	125,006	57,819
Santo Domingo.....	95	1,522	550	11,094
Cuba.....		6,052	22,506	45,743
Porto Rico.....		1,946	1,332	16,831
Argentina.....	1,422	2,926	26,614	20,971
Brazil.....	1,958	1,549	153,770	45,536
Colombia.....	559	1,635	17,484	48,695
Other South America.....	5,634	5,209	43,558	123,050
<b>Breadstuffs:</b>				
<b>Corn (<i>Maíz; Milho; Maïs</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	4,576	2,296	70,965	36,313
Mexico.....	1,153	15,643	43,557	63,412
Santo Domingo.....		10	166	266
Cuba.....		91,217	415,803	293,507
Porto Rico.....			80	63
South America.....	1,343	1,095	38,186	23,122
<b>Wheat flour (<i>Harina de trigo; Farina de trigo; Farine de blé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	86,881	65,672	1,183,182	986,717
Mexico.....	13,300	18,356	86,848	138,979
Santo Domingo.....	48,182	13,716	197,338	146,106
Cuba.....		190,252	1,160,736	1,719,225
Porto Rico.....		48,452	450,493	492,664
Brazil.....	229,701	295,696	3,240,362	3,399,027
Colombia.....	54,826	53,979	541,147	425,904
Other South America.....	157,329	154,090	1,740,204	1,410,485
<b>Wheat (<i>Trigo; Triigo; Blé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	4,015	4,113	43,808	34,323
Mexico.....		2	41	5,145
South America.....	76,043	285	1,705,171	191,211
<b>Carriages, cars, etc., and parts of (<i>Carruages, carros y sus accesorios; Carraagens, carros e partes de carros; Voitures, wagons et leurs parties</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	3,226	393	45,149	36,695
Mexico.....	23,548	94,712	508,678	510,247
Santo Domingo.....	737	254	24,111	21,941
Cuba.....		13,991	22,194	131,211
Porto Rico.....		1,160	5,821	6,171
Argentina.....	36,026	20,026	237,506	533,931
Brazil.....	30,786	1,280	561,773	105,583
Colombia.....	3,991	1,841	42,029	25,801
Other South America.....	2,451	2,107	79,934	51,531

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Cycles and parts of (<i>Biciclos y sus accesorios; Bicycles e accesorios; Bicyclettes et leurs parties</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	\$934	\$728	\$8,267	\$6,330
Mexico.....	8,046	2,219	68,022	48,301
Santo Domingo.....	37	.....	1,171	253
Cuba.....	.....	7,583	9,214	22,614
Porto Rico.....	.....	223	3,359	2,912
Argentina.....	9,600	34,737	90,229	238,788
Brazil.....	9,633	3,040	98,482	55,046
Colombia.....	653	1,040	15,684	9,328
Other South America.....	2,592	4,531	48,966	54,441
<b>Clocks and watches (<i>Relojes de pared y de bolsillo; Relojos de pared e de bolso; Pendules et montres</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	75	167	6,998	2,757
Mexico.....	1,443	2,690	20,128	28,008
Argentina.....	3,150	4,552	28,065	26,616
Brazil.....	2,265	3,387	40,898	67,745
Other South America.....	4,873	8,632	85,040	93,532
<b>Coal (<i>Carbón; Carvão; Charbon</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	260	990	19,325	13,104
Mexico.....	121,650	104,372	974,040	1,235,265
Santo Domingo.....	559	1,808	11,288	12,827
Cuba.....	.....	56,655	464,888	685,297
Porto Rico.....	.....	.....	21,014	45,098
Brazil.....	19,182	822	93,778	150,254
Colombia.....	5,850	9,350	38,284	43,815
Other South America.....	2,125	732	20,425	162,475
<b>Copper (<i>Cobre; Cobre; Cuivre</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	1,113	12,097	22,583	38,800
<b>Cotton, unmanufactured (<i>Algodón no manufacturado; Algodão não manufacturado; Coton non manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	9,300	4,064	1,321,473	1,043,473
<b>Cotton cloths (<i>Tijidos de algodón; Fazendas de algodão; Coton manufacturé</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	40,583	78,420	396,510	567,514
Mexico.....	36,079	31,810	415,910	481,569
Santo Domingo.....	28,973	45,956	120,167	198,893
Cuba.....	.....	95,892	12,163	447,839
Porto Rico.....	.....	64,638	2,206	169,057
Argentina.....	16,877	22,190	181,868	195,624
Brazil.....	80,474	49,071	565,921	545,545
Colombia.....	25,806	53,047	281,803	392,343
Other South America.....	124,462	80,678	1,126,671	1,374,117
<b>Wearing apparel (<i>Ropa de algodón; Roupa de algodão; Vêtements en coton</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	16,547	32,717	213,563	232,896
Mexico.....	43,432	38,487	334,651	401,962
Santo Domingo.....	596	1,240	18,491	26,205
Cuba.....	.....	14,286	11,715	112,580
Porto Rico.....	.....	5,751	1,678	28,263
Argentina.....	4,261	2,872	34,726	65,484
Brazil.....	4,603	2,098	50,828	41,657
Colombia.....	4,713	6,116	45,364	46,798
Other South America.....	2,619	4,602	34,810	52,404
<b>Fruits and nuts (<i>Frutas y nueces; Frutas e nozes; Fruits et noixettes</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	1,823	2,284	35,716	27,324
Mexico.....	5,723	3,978	58,513	75,920
Santo Domingo.....	47	.....	1,394	1,709
Cuba.....	.....	5,513	38,175	64,683
Porto Rico.....	.....	585	2,348	4,846
Argentina.....	1,135	1,129	9,761	17,202
Brazil.....	996	687	11,843	17,208
Colombia.....	457	1,127	10,189	8,749
Other South America.....	1,040	794	24,220	22,164
<b>Hides and skins (<i>Cueros y pieles; Couros e peles; Cuir e peaux</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mexico.....	370	550	2,676	2,606

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Instruments:</b>				
Electric and scientific apparatus ( <i>Aparatos electricos y científicos; Appareils électriques e científicos; Appareils électriques et scientifiques</i> )—				
Central America.....	\$2,779	\$3,232	\$58,711	\$80,133
Mexico.....	28,621	37,994	287,370	427,941
Argentina.....	3,148	36,701	109,086	247,062
Brazil.....	3,904	6,646	84,231	115,941
Other South America.....	6,770	10,974	123,800	120,951
<b>Iron and steel, manufactures of:</b>				
Steel rails ( <i>Carriles de acero; Trilhos de aço; Rails d'acier</i> )—				
Central America.....	250	1,000	11,074	34,627
Mexico.....	56,637	89,945	561,151	587,589
South America.....	46,432	2,300	297,015	249,080
<b>Builders' hardware, and saws and tools (<i>Materiales de metal para construcción, sierras y herramientas; Ferrageus, serras, e ferramentas; Matériaux de construction en fer et acier, scies, et outils</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	6,174	6,656	82,462	82,480
Mexico.....	60,705	37,340	461,532	358,213
Santo Domingo.....	1,297	546	13,197	11,072
Cuba.....	.....	38,279	56,961	262,379
Porto Rico.....	.....	4,492	9,439	18,780
Argentina.....	18,444	33,514	147,958	232,579
Brazil.....	12,428	21,855	160,884	225,191
Colombia.....	9,452	10,956	90,709	108,758
Other South America.....	14,110	15,112	205,323	234,059
<b>Sewing machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de coser y accesorios; Machinas de coser e accesorios; Machines à coudre et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,706	2,152	30,312	20,312
Mexico.....	9,024	13,601	197,692	270,592
Santo Domingo.....	46	127	1,282	2,373
Cuba.....	.....	4,121	2,785	12,323
Porto Rico.....	.....	1,007	3,120	4,086
Argentina.....	1,402	24,377	77,188	143,893
Brazil.....	11,864	11,449	95,966	112,398
Colombia.....	7,862	8,681	82,359	69,374
Other South America.....	9,003	8,288	101,289	127,299
<b>Typewriting machines and parts of (<i>Máquinas de escribir y accesorios; Machinas de escribir e accesorios; Machines à écrire et leurs parties</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	40	275	2,360	2,440
Mexico.....	3,692	5,920	28,975	45,824
Santo Domingo.....	.....	20	90	208
Cuba.....	.....	1,021	1,457	19,769
Porto Rico.....	.....	283	65	4,229
Argentina.....	4,015	1,096	18,167	31,164
Brazil.....	15	850	4,945	6,135
Colombia.....	145	266	4,228	3,942
Other South America.....	885	2,646	14,652	25,981
<b>Leather, other than sole (<i>Cuero, distinto del de suela; Couro não para solas; Cuir, autres que pour semelles</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	431	56	4,713	10,278
Mexico.....	711	100	9,310	9,872
Santo Domingo.....	.....	225	569	1,759
Cuba.....	.....	5,746	2,298	14,828
Porto Rico.....	.....	1,670	1,394	8,843
Argentina.....	.....	2,388	4,360	34,441
Brazil.....	2,833	13,182	54,022	53,913
Colombia.....	1,582	550	4,133	3,781
Other South America.....	466	4,147	13,288	32,033
<b>Boots and shoes (<i>Calzado; Calçados; Chaussures</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	5,851	11,678	88,907	106,554
Mexico.....	17,837	24,103	87,669	212,245
Colombia.....	4,315	4,871	41,430	24,231
Other South America.....	2,970	710	28,879	36,562

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Naval stores:</b>				
Rosin, tar, etc. ( <i>Resina y alquitran; Resina e alcatraz; Résine et goudron</i> )—				
Central America.....	\$990	\$1,100	\$15,459	\$13,924
Mexico.....	861	847	10,212	8,924
Santo Domingo.....	639	46	6,156	3,760
Cuba.....		629	7,543	9,632
Porto Rico.....		77	814	1,281
Argentina.....	22,841	1,205	95,161	74,242
Brazil.....	12,454	7,350	184,460	220,213
Colombia.....	2,060	278	13,102	12,517
Other South America.....	10,470	4,328	95,878	80,540
<b>Turpentine, spirits of (<i>Aguarrás; Agua-raz; Térébenthine</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	217	828	3,029	4,181
Mexico.....	668	374	3,626	4,393
Santo Domingo.....	44	110	491	627
Cuba.....		4,686	15,352	35,371
Porto Rico.....		509	1,648	4,345
Argentina.....	18,841	21,539	129,506	55,785
Brazil.....	12,459	4,543	74,148	51,791
Colombia.....	473	426	4,513	6,738
Other South America.....	14,488	7,602	61,934	47,859
<b>Oils, mineral, crude (<i>Aceites minerales, crudos; Oleos minerales, crus; Huiles minerales, brutes</i>):</b>				
Mexico.....	81	59,838	317,514	395,986
Cuba.....		25,913	207,649	192,686
Porto Rico.....		12,512	51,808	12,512
<b>Oils, mineral, refined or manufactured (<i>Aceites minerales refinados ó manufacturados; Oleos minerales, refinados ó manufacturados; Huiles minerales, raffinées ou manufacturées</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	6,363	9,739	112,834	131,333
Mexico.....	16,257	24,590	184,088	191,480
Santo Domingo.....	267	964	50,051	39,955
Cuba.....		4,625	31,358	125,156
Porto Rico.....		4,838	22,677	61,015
Argentina.....	104,599	124,172	1,067,498	797,604
Brazil.....	189,998	79,073	1,532,231	1,499,118
Colombia.....	11,278	20,351	103,145	129,600
Other South America.....	180,191	76,533	967,067	890,460
<b>Oils, vegetable (<i>Aceites vegetales; Oleos vegetales; Huiles végétales</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	154	361	3,080	5,114
Mexico.....	7,202	73,435	328,768	491,114
Santo Domingo.....	7,138	4,013	27,824	30,627
Cuba.....		3,667	2,774	20,395
Argentina.....	1,759	3,716	5,947	29,752
Brazil.....	10,728	11,452	237,065	196,501
Other South America.....	13,678	9,180	104,844	97,897
<b>Paraffin and paraffin wax (<i>Parafina y cera de parafina; Paraffine e cera de paraffina; Paraffine et cire de cette substance</i>):</b>				
Central America.....	2,628	2,896	21,694	31,935
Mexico.....	10,632	20,843	157,863	241,110
Brazil.....	844	2,112	10,968	13,583
Other South America.....		1,537	5,703	7,994
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products:</b>				
<b>Beef, canned (<i>Carne de vaca en latas; Carne de vacca em latas; Bœuf conservé</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	2,467	1,370	28,579	20,148
Mexico.....	996	2,422	14,237	19,570
Santo Domingo.....	7		40	117
Cuba.....		470	64,112	13,698
Argentina.....				
Brazil.....	136	93	549	1,445
Colombia.....	368	552	6,623	5,073
Other South America.....	2,936	263	14,492	11,861
<b>Beef, salted or pickled (<i>Carne de vaca, salada ó en salmuera; Carne de vacca, salgada ou em salmoura; Bœuf, salé ou en saumure</i>)—</b>				
Central America.....	1,171	4,737	39,078	35,858
Mexico.....		45	492	625

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Beef, salted or pickled—Continued.</b>				
Santo Domingo .....	\$1,075	\$1,098	\$2,718	\$4,875
Cuba .....		744	13,720	32,014
Porto Rico .....		152	859	1,227
Brazil .....	125	44	1,237	2,530
Colombia .....	1,740	2,192	13,240	14,713
Other South America .....	24,300	14,093	175,027	174,498
<b>Tallow (Sebo; Sebo; Suif)—</b>				
Central America .....	7,800	7,783	95,679	92,126
Mexico .....	1,883	1,986	24,364	33,573
Santo Domingo .....	4,178	18	30,338	35,840
Cuba .....		23	13,231	19,160
Porto Rico .....		200	287	547
Brazil .....		990	25,070	37,778
Colombia .....	55	2,346	16,230	14,408
Other South America .....	8,057	508	20,033	33,762
<b>Bacon (Tocino; Toucinho; Lard fumé)—</b>				
Central America .....	1,716	1,835	16,692	17,914
Mexico .....	930	2,059	9,804	17,277
Santo Domingo .....	801	320	2,213	1,903
Cuba .....		95,175	672,008	643,381
Porto Rico .....		7,491	33,013	74,283
Brazil .....	11,176	7,340	508,171	415,745
Colombia .....	93	308	1,366	1,862
Other South America .....	3,257	382	29,223	16,758
<b>Hams (Jamones; Presunto; Jambons)—</b>				
Central America .....	1,914	2,495	28,291	23,260
Mexico .....	3,543	1,974	23,790	30,956
Santo Domingo .....	1,316	545	6,716	7,483
Cuba .....		72,609	365,243	559,584
Porto Rico .....		437	50,941	11,641
Brazil .....	66	176	3,262	3,649
Colombia .....	981	2,642	13,805	16,507
Other South America .....	5,883	7,159	84,268	84,837
<b>Pork (Carne de puerco; Carne de porco, Porc)—</b>				
Central America .....	4,360	6,402	70,438	63,395
Santo Domingo .....	1,870	1,165	5,338	5,949
Cuba .....		4,289	14,103	39,466
Porto Rico .....		16,511	176,219	173,151
Brazil .....	90	1,488	2,045	7,368
Other South America .....	10,258	21,690	129,476	165,119
<b>Lard (Manteca; Banha; Saindoux)—</b>				
Central America .....	20,059	13,186	156,161	158,967
Mexico .....	7,440	14,509	177,525	169,689
Santo Domingo .....	10,653	4,692	29,682	27,945
Cuba .....		189,016	1,027,657	1,462,604
Porto Rico .....		77,840	190,630	256,372
Argentina .....	179	153	3,133	3,636
Brazil .....	31,672	101,013	973,990	1,219,882
Colombia .....	10,258	21,690	129,436	105,119
Other South America .....	71,763	59,425	681,023	628,356
<b>Oil and oleomargarine (Grasa y oleomargarina; Oleo ó oleomargarina; Oleo et oleomargarine)—</b>				
Central America .....	248	190	1,254	2,514
Mexico .....	72		961	751
Colombia .....	1,110	2,153	8,400	11,225
Other South America .....	1,122	3,828	15,855	23,913
<b>Butter (Mantequilla; Manteiga; Beurre)—</b>				
Central America .....	3,817	4,415	48,631	46,637
Mexico .....	4,381	3,000	43,720	49,767
Santo Domingo .....	1,760	910	7,911	11,154
Cuba .....		5,157	8,087	99,497
Porto Rico .....		431	2,407	8,169
Brazil .....	5,318	20,127	92,191	177,514
Colombia .....	854	1,733	19,672	15,127
Other South America .....	11,593	17,130	91,622	141,219
<b>Cheese (Queso; Queijo; Fromage)—</b>				
Central America .....	1,112	1,821	14,436	19,889
Mexico .....	702	471	3,984	4,928

## EXPORTS OF DOMESTIC MERCHANDISE—Continued.

Articles and countries.	June—		Twelve months ending June—	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
<b>Provisions, comprising meat and dairy products—</b>				
Continued.				
<b>Cheese—Continued.</b>				
Santo Domingo.....		\$3,137	\$25,888	\$76,884
Cuba.....		3,019	1,535	27,401
Porto Rico.....			257	638
Brazil.....	\$643	728	11,082	7,950
Colombia.....	1,211	1,017	17,079	13,362
<b>Seeds (Semillas; Sementes; Semences):</b>				
Central America.....	367	428	5,387	4,875
Mexico.....	393	330	29,472	15,724
Santo Domingo.....	122	114	864	320
Cuba.....		664	2,612	4,190
Porto Rico.....		42	19	539
Argentina.....		3,048	368	10,842
Brazil.....			858	1,065
Colombia.....	201	242	1,733	1,591
Other South America.....	339	152	2,345	2,440
<b>Sugar, refined (Azúcar refinado; Assucar refinado; Sucre raffiné):</b>				
Central America.....	2,920	1,446	50,408	19,047
Mexico.....	5,181	24,856	18,722	50,104
Santo Domingo.....	114	90	1,618	1,206
Colombia.....	1,302	1,718	26,815	15,316
Other South America.....	63	266	5,204	2,328
<b>Tobacco, unmanufactured (Tabaco no manufacturado; Tabaco não manufacturado; Tabac non manufacture):</b>				
Central America.....	928	1,254	30,777	24,629
Mexico.....	6,073	12,275	135,656	143,786
Argentina.....	7,880	2,252	12,984	24,677
Colombia.....	839	964	8,057	6,449
Other South America.....	10,386	10,343	100,298	97,663
<b>Tobacco, manufactures of (Manufacturas de tabaco; Manufacturas de tabaco; Tabac fabriqué):</b>				
Central America.....	5,545	988	49,371	51,694
Mexico.....	8,189	2,016	25,914	20,329
Cuba.....		14,475	146,292	160,547
Argentina.....	18	2,028	2,362	6,204
Brazil.....			560	500
Colombia.....	636	1,281	3,748	6,663
Other South America.....	8,837	4,561	82,015	84,655
<b>Wood, unmanufactured (Madera no manufacturado; Madeira não manufacturado; Bois brut):</b>				
Central America.....	642	1,600	49,526	28,988
Mexico.....	64,890	6,473	296,589	257,918
Cuba.....		7,216	14,863	43,723
Argentina.....	4,643	607	11,728	18,706
Brazil.....			7,278	4,524
Colombia.....		258	23,737	22,445
Other South America.....	1,457		50,997	26,192
<b>Lumber (Maderas; Madeiras; Bois de construcción):</b>				
Central America.....	3,190	3,875	38,469	60,506
Mexico.....	69,772	85,083	843,300	797,500
Santo Domingo.....	1,720	3,538	38,090	34,174
Cuba.....		35,931	236,076	730,964
Porto Rico.....		5,016	51,129	81,543
Argentina.....	46,365	78,059	875,362	990,730
Brazil.....	36,213	52,682	629,796	443,622
Colombia.....	2,561	4,436	56,838	49,736
Other South America.....	54,267	48,972	516,490	521,315
<b>Furniture (Muebles; Mobília; Meubles):</b>				
Central America.....	3,070	4,113	74,586	37,489
Mexico.....	14,094	20,547	157,095	241,771
Santo Domingo.....	991	1,808	11,657	9,042
Cuba.....		13,776	24,910	92,248
Porto Rico.....		4,461	6,041	23,914
Argentina.....	2,257	17,222	62,224	77,157
Brazil.....	937	3,345	36,010	32,819
Colombia.....	2,027	3,608	33,410	29,969
Other South America.....	5,903	1,978	75,962	66,555

## IMPORTS AND EXPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1899.

The detailed tables of the imports and exports of the United States in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, were completed and a summary given to the public by the Chief of the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department at Washington on July 27. The tables contained in this summary, compared with the figures for the previous year, exhibit some interesting facts. The value of the imports increased more than \$81,000,000, while the value of the exports decreased over \$4,000,000. According to class the imports for 1898 and 1899 were divided as follows:

## IMPORTS.

	1898.	1899.
Articles of food and live animals.....	\$181,205,834	\$211,869,918
Articles in a crude condition which enter into the various processes of domestic industry.....	201,428,375	221,998,377
Articles wholly or partially manufactured for use as material in the manufactures and mechanics arts.....	58,584,559	60,712,518
Articles manufactured ready for consumption.....	97,382,404	108,621,406
Articles of voluntary use, luxuries, etc.....	77,448,472	93,914,635
Total imports.....	618,049,654	697,116,854
Per cent of free.....	47.3	43.07
Duties collected.....	\$149,819,594	\$206,507,812
Foreign goods remaining in warehouse.....	\$37,726,964	\$55,956,021

## EXPORTS.

Products of agriculture.....	\$853,683,570	\$784,999,009
Products of manufacture.....	290,697,354	338,667,794
Products of mining.....	19,410,707	28,832,547
Products of the fisheries.....	5,435,483	6,025,446
Miscellaneous.....	3,164,628	3,281,134
Total domestic exports.....	1,210,291,913	1,204,123,134
Foreign goods reexported.....	21,190,417	23,082,285
Total exports.....	1,231,482,330	1,227,205,419

The imports and exports by grand divisions were as follows:

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Europe.....	\$305,933,691	\$353,885,064	\$973,806,245	\$936,781,169
North America.....	91,376,807	112,133,871	139,627,841	157,931,409
South America.....	92,091,694	86,576,020	33,821,701	35,660,932
Asia.....	92,594,593	107,081,421	44,707,791	48,360,161
Oceania.....	26,859,230	26,997,508	22,003,022	29,874,993
Africa.....	7,193,639	10,442,970	17,515,730	18,594,424

With reference to countries, the imports and exports for "North America" were as follows:

	Imports.		Exports.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
British North America .....	\$32,242,601	\$31,586,332	\$84,889,819	\$89,573,609
Berunda .....	459,282	494,812	986,915	1,065,388
British West Indies .....	10,632,187	14,150,482	8,386,240	8,751,817
British Honduras .....	171,920	198,203	576,111	499,839
Total British .....	43,505,990	46,429,829	94,839,085	99,890,653
Mexico .....	19,004,863	22,994,091	21,206,939	25,480,281
Costa Rica .....	2,732,426	3,581,899	1,520,161	1,241,191
Guatemala .....	1,854,303	2,111,264	1,201,714	1,102,779
Honduras .....	784,741	911,849	752,203	831,308
Nicaragua .....	1,095,865	1,514,630	1,049,505	1,186,950
Salvador .....	799,145	1,085,703	796,575	625,414
Haiti .....	876,582	826,426	2,968,579	2,455,966
Santo Domingo .....	2,382,139	3,125,695	1,151,258	1,104,513
Cuba .....	15,232,477	25,411,410	9,561,656	18,615,707
Porto Rico .....	2,414,356	3,179,827	1,505,946	2,685,848
Danish West Indies .....	327,759	599,328	707,622	498,066
Dutch West Indies .....	174,243	246,902	544,463	474,435
French West Indies .....	30,888	28,735	1,617,130	1,542,984
Miqueon, Langley, etc. ....	161,030	86,283	205,005	194,624

With reference to the imports from and the exports to the several South American countries, the statistics are as follows:

Country.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Argentine Republic .....	\$5,915,879	\$3,112,561	\$6,429,070	\$9,563,510
Bolivia .....			20,675	31,298
Brazil .....	61,730,369	57,875,747	13,317,036	12,240,036
Chile .....	3,736,307	2,931,089	2,351,727	2,107,124
Colombia .....	5,183,604	5,126,731	3,277,257	3,042,094
Ecuador .....	765,590	1,054,654	855,193	882,621
British Guiana .....	3,060,968	3,500,207	1,747,375	1,749,545
Dutch Guiana .....	1,457,135	1,651,009	408,414	443,757
French Guiana .....	12,551	37,929	150,041	170,090
Paraguay .....		160	699	10,751
Peru .....	714,247	1,496,978	1,302,695	1,325,650
Uruguay .....	1,772,480	1,281,109	1,214,248	1,242,822
Venezuela .....	7,722,564	6,507,847	2,746,261	2,851,634

In 1898, \$1,010 worth of merchandise was exported to the Falkland Islands, but in 1899 there was neither any import or export trade with them.

#### RAILWAY STATISTICS.

The railway interests of the United States are so vast, representing such an enormous money value and exerting such an immense influence on the commerce, not only of this country, but of the world, that information concerning them merits special attention.

On July 15 the Interstate Commerce Commission made public its report of the railway statistics of the United States for the year ending June 30, 1898. On that date there were 186,396 miles of road in operation. The amount of the capital outstanding, not including current liabilities, was \$10,818,554,031. This amount represents a capital of \$60,343 per mile of line. The amount of capital in the form of stocks



was \$5,388,268,231, of which \$1,118,996,607 was preferred stock. The amount in the form of funded debt was \$5,430,285,710, comprising mortgage bonds and lesser obligations. Only 29.61 per cent of the stock paid dividends, and there was a default of interest in 11.34 per cent of the mortgage bonds. The gross earnings of all roads, covering an operating mileage of 184,648 miles, were \$1,247,325,621, an increase of \$125,235,848 over the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897. The operating expenses during the same period were \$817,973,276, being an increase of \$65,448,512 as compared with the previous year.

The gross earnings comprised the following items: Passenger revenue, \$266,970,490—increase, \$15,834,563; mail, \$34,608,352—increase, \$853,886; express, \$25,908,075—increase, \$1,007,009; other earnings from passenger service, \$7,224,000; freight revenue, \$876,727,719—increase, \$103,878,405; other earnings from freight service, \$4,683,205—increase, \$473,548; other earnings from operation, including a few unclassified items, \$31,203,780.

The operating expenses for the year were: Maintenance of way and structures, \$173,314,958—increase as compared with the preceding year, \$13,880,555; maintenance of equipment, \$142,624,862—increase, \$19,682,504; conducting transportation, \$464,674,276—increase, \$32,148,414; general expenses, \$36,476,686—decrease, \$4,583. The gross earnings averaged \$6.755 per mile of line, and operating expenses \$4.430 per mile of line. These amounts are, respectively, \$633 and \$324 greater than the corresponding figures for 1897.

The aggregate number of passengers carried during the year was 501,066,681, indicating an increase as compared with the year ending June 30, 1897, of 11,621,483. The number of tons of freight carried during the year was 879,006,307, an increase of 137,300,361. The number of tons of freight carried 1 mile was 114,077,576,305, which, compared with the previous year, shows the large increase of 18,938,554,080. The number of tons of freight carried 1 mile per mile of line was 617,810, which is 93,731 greater than in 1897.

The number of persons employed by the railways of the United States, as reported on June 30, 1898, was 874,558, which is equivalent to 474 employees per 100 miles of line. Of railway employees 1,958 were killed and 31,761 were injured during the year. The number of passengers killed during the year was 221 and the number injured was 2,945. Corresponding figures for the previous year were 222 killed and 2,795 injured. In consequence of collisions and derailments 72 passengers were killed and 1,134 passengers were injured. The total number of persons, other than employees and passengers, killed was 4,680; injured, 6,176. One passenger was killed for every 2,267,270 carried and 1 injured for every 170,141. Out of every 447 employees 1 was killed, and 1 out of every 28 was injured.

The "Railroad Gazette," of New York, has made a preliminary canvass of the new railroad construction in the United States for the first six

months of 1899, and finds that, notwithstanding the increased activities in the railroad field this year, the total mileage of actual building completed proves somewhat disappointing. The total shown is 1,181.45 miles, which will be increased somewhat by later returns. This is an increase of about 90 miles over the preliminary figures of last year; but from construction actually known to be under way operations are much more extensive than last year's, and it is quite certain that the year's total will show a very considerable gain over the nearly 3,300 miles of 1898. The "Gazette" notes, for example, the Chicago and Northwestern road, which has 247 miles of new line under way, but only 4 miles were included in the statement for the first half of the year. The second six months is the building portion of the year in railroad work, and last year showed about 2 miles of new construction for every 1 completed before June 30.

The same paper in its issue for June 2, contains a table covering the mileage of the railroads in the various countries and grand divisions of the world for the five years 1893-1897. According to these figures the total length of the railroads of the world in 1897 was 454,730 miles, and the increase from 1893 to 1897 was 37,458 miles, or 8.9 per cent. America, including North and South America and the West India Islands, had something more than half of the total mileage—236,218 miles. Taking the countries separately, of course the United States had much the largest mileage, but the increase in this country from 1893 to 1897 amounted to only 3.6 per cent, or 6,559 miles. Next among the great nations comes the German Empire with 29,880 miles, and after this come in the following order: Russia, France, Great Britain and Ireland, British India, Austria-Hungary, British North America, Italy, and the Argentine Republic.

In this table Mexico is credited with 7,384 miles; all of Central America, 644; the West Indies (excepting Cuba and Santo Domingo), 582; Santo Domingo, 117; Cuba, 1,104; United States of Colombia, 346; Venezuela, 633; Brazil, 8,657; Argentine Republic, 9,422; Uruguay, 1,118; Paraguay, 157; Chile, 2,662; Peru, 1,035; Bolivia, 621; Ecuador, 186; British Guiana, 22.

In railway mileage, as compared with the area of the country, Belgium has the most—32.2 miles, followed by Great Britain and Ireland, 17.55 miles, per every 100 square miles of territory.

#### IMPORTS OF COFFEE IN 1898 AND IN 1899.

The Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department of the United States reports the total imports, reexports, and net imports of coffee for the fiscal years 1898 and 1899 as follows:

Imports, 1898, 870,514,455 pounds; imports, 1899, 831,820,341 pounds; reexports, 1898, 18,823,371 pounds; reexports, 1899, 30,070,195 pounds; net imports, 1898, 851,690,084; net imports, 1899, 801,750,145 pounds; total value in 1898, \$62,674,181; total value in 1899, \$52,369,360; value

per pound in 1898, 7.3 cents; value per pound in 1899, 6.5 cents. The imports were from the following countries:

	1898.		1899.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>Pounds.</i>		<i>Pounds.</i>	
United Kingdom .....	1,796,985	\$254,206	4,465,794	\$494,553
France .....	859,419	62,173	92,319	8,255
Germany .....	7,334,801	538,717	2,138,780	209,399
Netherlands .....	2,469,967	361,095	3,655,289	404,137
Other Europe .....	2,427,834	136,902	390,660	22,041
Central America .....	35,862,385	4,459,183	45,298,800	5,368,711
Mexico .....	34,511,168	3,599,392	27,324,827	2,686,248
West Indies .....	6,412,209	673,800	11,701,201	945,632
Brazil .....	661,008,372	40,956,963	628,417,812	35,253,010
Other South America .....	90,113,241	9,276,212	90,332,351	7,217,590
East Indies .....	21,311,159	3,603,055	10,498,299	1,502,493
Other Asia and Oceanica .....	4,947,018	918,104	5,290,163	840,736
Africa .....	42,305	6,040	642,003	104,971
Other countries .....	1,477,592	221,789	1,572,041	216,880
Total .....	870,514,455	65,067,631	831,820,341	55,274,646

The quantity imported in 1897 was 737,645,670 pounds, valued at \$81,544,384, or at a little more than 11 cents per pound. From the above table it appears that over 75.5 per cent of the total supply for 1899 came from the Republic of Brazil, and 86.25 per cent from South America taken as a whole. It would appear that only a shortage in the crop of Brazil would increase the price of coffee.

#### PRODUCTION OF TEA.

During the first week in July, the officials of the Agricultural Department at Washington were informed that tea grown within the United States had been placed on sale at New York City for the first time in the history of the country. This was the product of a tea farm conducted by Dr. CHARLES U. SHEPARD at Pinehurst, 20 miles from Charleston, South Carolina, where experiments in the culture of the tea plant had been under way for the past twenty years. This tea farm was originally started by the Agricultural Department and has been aided in various ways since then by the Government. During recent years Dr. SHEPARD was successful in raising a small crop, all of which was disposed of at the farm to regular customers. The last crop, however, was too large for the private trade and a quantity was sent to New York where it was sold at wholesale prices and since placed on sale at retail. It is represented as American tea and brings a higher price than the rarest varieties of Chinese or Japanese teas.

Although the tea growers of Japan and China have the advantages of climate and experience, Dr. SHEPARD is able to profit by some conditions found only in the United States which put him on a somewhat equal footing with his foreign competitors. Japanese and Chinese growers have to resort to the most expensive methods of packing their product for shipment abroad, putting it in heavy tin foil, several layers of matting and other covering, in the endeavor to preserve the natural

taste and other qualities of the plant. It is a well-known fact that an ocean voyage is very injurious to tea, robbing it of much of its natural flavor and sweetness, besides damaging it in other ways. The tea produced by Dr. SHEPARD has none of these disadvantages to contend with and in no manner is the quality deteriorated.

A number of years ago the Department of Agriculture distributed a quantity of tea plants in various Southern States, with the idea of encouraging the cultivation of the product. With the single exception of Dr. SHEPARD, no one seriously took up the work. He started in on a small scale, and with the assistance referred to has at last established an industry which is now paying him a good profit. Among the problems that had to be met was that of growing tea in a district which had a yearly rainfall of 56 inches, while Asiatic authorities claim that the plant requires from 80 to 100 inches of rainfall per annum and that the more that falls in the early part of the year the better. Some of the best tea districts in Asia have 120 inches of rain a year. Again, Dr. SHEPARD found that the authorities agreed that the temperature should never be below 40°. At Pinehurst a temperature as low as 15° may be expected in winter. In order to make the most of the rainfall and to have it evenly distributed, the land was underdrained, deeply plowed, stirred up, and pulverized to a depth of 18 inches; a general system of surface cultivation further aided in retaining moisture in the soil. Dr. SHEPARD thus gained moisture equal to 10 or 15 inches of rain.

The question of labor was a serious problem, as it was ascertained that it would cost eight times as much to pick 1 pound in South Carolina as in Asia. It was found out of the question to keep constantly employed a force large enough to pick the leaves from time to time as they ripened. Dr. SHEPARD accordingly hit upon a sort of kindergarten plan, securing a large number of colored children to attend his school free of charge. He taught them reading and writing, in return for which they were to pick tea, receiving in addition to their schooling enough money to pay for their food and clothing. Some of these children have become quite expert, though none of them have attained the skill credited to the experts of China and Japan.

Mr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, a horticulturist of the Department of Agriculture, recently paid a visit to this tea farm, and in submitting his report had the following to say in regard to the possibilities of the tea industry in the United States:

"No one need attempt this culture with hope of success without experience in the practical application of the principles governing every detail. It is a special business and will require special study, which can be best given on the ground where all the operations are being carried on. The student must serve an apprenticeship and learn the business from the beginning, from the sowing of the seed to the packing of the manufactured leaf. Then there is the ever-recurring question

of labor. It is evident that the industry can only be made profitable by preparing an article of strictly superior quality, and to do this more labor is required in picking the leaves than where an inferior article is made, using older and harder leaves."

#### COPPER PRODUCTION IN THE YEARS 1898 AND 1899.

The copper production of the United States in the year 1898 was the largest ever recorded in a single year. The figures as furnished by the producers show a total of 239,241 long tons, or 535,900,232 pounds, of fine copper. This was an increase over 1897 of 15,415 long tons, or 34,529,937 pounds, or 6.8 per cent. The ratio of increase was about the same as that shown in 1897 over 1896, but was considerably less than that reported in 1896 over the previous year. There was imported by the United States during the year 38,922,552 pounds of copper, this metal coming chiefly in the form of bullion from the mines of Mexico and British Columbia, sent to this country to be refined. On the other hand, the exports for the year amounted to 133,822.68 long tons—290,765,054 pounds—or about 55 per cent of the total production. The consumption, as arrived at approximately by these figures, showed very little change from that of the preceding year.

The copper statistics for the six months ending June 30, 1899, as compiled by the "New York Metal Exchange," are as follows: Domestic production, as per producers, returns, 124,487 long tons—278,850,880 pounds; foreign net importation, 13,908 long tons—3,115,392 pounds; total supplies, 138,395 long tons—309,966,272 pounds. Deliveries for the six months ending June 30 (in tons of 2,240 pounds) were as follows: Exports of domestic to Europe, 51,723; exports of same to British North America, 220; exports of same to Mexico, 50; contents of sulphate of copper exported (7,640 tons at 25 per cent), 1,910; total exports, 53,903; estimated deliveries for home consumption, 72,000; total deliveries, 125,903. The domestic production shows an increase of exactly 4,000 tons as compared with the same period of 1898, but compared with the last half of 1898 the increase amounts to 10,702 tons. The contents of sulphate exported show an increase of 820 tons as compared with the same period of 1898. Deliveries for home consumption were extremely heavy during the second quarter of this year. For the six months the increase over the same period of 1898 amounts to 18,000 tons, and, if compared with the second half of the year, the increase is 12,000 tons. The surplus of supplies over deliveries amounts to 12,492 tons, the greater part of which went to newly established refineries.

One of the most peculiar importations of copper ever noted in the United States was brought by the steamship *Cerie* to the port of New York, on July 25, 1899. This was 9,999 bags, or 250 tons of copper coins from India, consigned to the "Oxford Copper Company." These coins will be melted, as it is explained that they are worth more as

bullion than as money. The statement is made that when copper stood at 10 cents per pound there was a profit in coining it for the Indian Government, but conditions are now changed by prices ruling for copper. It is also claimed that the copper coins of China, and possibly some other countries, can be imported and melted at a profit; but this claim is questionable.

#### STATISTICS OF IMMIGRATION.

Immigration to the United States during the fiscal year ended June 30, 1899, was greater than for any year since 1896, and the number of persons was over 80,000 more than in 1898. Mr. TERENCE V. POWDERLY, Commissioner of Immigration for the United States, concluded the compilation of the returns for the several ports of the country on July 11, and found that 311,715 aliens landed during the twelve months. Of these 195,277 were males and 116,458 were females. In 1898 the grand total was 229,299; in 1897, 230,832; in 1896, 343,267; in 1895, 258,536, and in 1894, 285,631. The immigration for the last two months, May and June, were remarkably heavy, being respectively 54,154 and 40,033. If that rate should be kept up during the present fiscal year, the new arrivals will number over 550,000.

In former years the Immigration Bureau recorded the nation from which each immigrant arrived; but during the past year the race or nationality was kept. Heretofore, for instance, the number of Hebrews was not known; they were Germans, Russians, or Poles. During the past twelve months 37,415 Hebrews were admitted to the United States. The Italians again take the lead, the total number of arrivals from Northern Italy being 65,639 and from Southern Italy 13,091, a total of 78,730. The total number of Irish arriving was 32,345, of whom 18,625 were females and 13,700 males—the only country sending more females than males. Every race or nationality of people on the face of the earth furnished immigrants in 1899 to the United States except the Province of Wallachia, Rumania. As many as 412 black people from Africa were admitted, as well as 1,638 Chinese, 11 of the latter being females.

#### SMYRNA FIG INDUSTRY IN CALIFORNIA.

The Department of Agriculture of the United States issued a bulletin in June, 1899, treating of the probable success of the efforts of the Department to establish the Smyrna fig industry in the State of California. It appears that the fruiting of the Smyrna fig is dependent upon the introduction from Southern Europe and the establishment in California of a little insect (*Blastophaga*) which fertilizes the figs. Experimental introductions of the insect were begun in 1898, and some of them, brought over at that time, have succeeded in penetrating the closed flowers of the Capri fig trees growing at Fresno, making the first step of the experimental work a success. The bulletin says that

"since the insect has maintained itself for an entire year, there is reason to suppose that it will continue to breed, and that California, in the near future, will be able to place a fig upon the market which will possess the same superior flavor as that which has given the imported Smyrna figs their preeminent commercial rank."

#### DEPOSITARY IN THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

By direction of President MCKINLEY the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China has been designated a depositary of the War Department of the United States for the Philippine Islands, and for the faithful performance of such duty it will have to furnish a bond in the sum of \$500,000, and such additional sums as may be required from time to time by the Secretary of War.

#### LAUNCHING OF A STEAMER.

The steamship *Ponce*, a steel vessel 355 feet long, 42 feet beam, of 3,250 tons burden, and with a speed of 12 knots, was launched on July 22, at Wilmington, Delaware, for the "New York and Puerto Rico Steamship Company." She will be employed as a passenger and freight steamer between the port of New York and the island of Puerto Rico.

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## URUGUAY.

#### THE MONTEVIDEO PORT SCHEME.

Dr. C. M. PENA, the Minister of Promotion of Uruguay, has prepared a memorandum on the Montevideo port scheme, which is commented on as follows in the "Montevideo Times:"

"For twenty years at least the idea of building a new port for Montevideo has been more or less to the fore, it being generally recognized that the bay in its present condition, which is little better than that of nature, afforded neither the shelter nor the facilities requisite to sustain the commerce of the capital or to compete with the ports constructed at Buenos Ayres, La Plata, and Ensenada. Moreover, it was showing a tendency to fill up, and indeed was no longer available for modern ocean-going vessels of deep draft, which have to perform their operations of loading and unloading in the outer roads, a process both costly and inconvenient. The building of a new port was therefore an imperative necessity for the commerce of the Republic, and to prevent Montevideo, the principal gate of that commerce, from sinking into a very secondary position as compared with her Argentine rivals, though her natural position is far more advantageous than theirs."

Successive administrations have taken up this problem, the solution

of which has never approached success. The repeated failures are due principally to political instability, want of any scientific basis for the plans, and the financial difficulty. Plans were eventually prepared by Mr. GUEBARD, which have been accepted, for the technical side of the scheme, and the Government regards this phase of the question as definitely closed. The third difficulty seems to have been solved by the present administration, and, as the "Times" says, "If the new port can not be made on the present basis, we may doubt if it will ever be made at all." The present scheme as summarized is as follows:

"The total cost of the port is reduced to \$11,590,000, spread over a period of eight years—far less a sum than was ever imagined possible before. To meet this sum he (the Minister) proposes to utilize the additional import duty of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, and a new export duty of 1 per cent, yielding an annual revenue estimated at \$850,000, or in eight years \$6,800,000. At the end of eight years these taxes will be freed, for application to extension of the port, to other administrative purposes, or to be rescinded altogether, to the benefit of commerce and production. Other items, namely, interest on unemployed fund, sale of redeemed lands, and revenue from the port itself during the last three years, bring the port fund up to a total of \$8,622,000. But, as this fund is obviously insufficient to build a port costing \$11,590,000, he proposes to make up the balance by issuing port obligations (or debentures) for \$5,500,000 nominal, which, issued at 73 per cent, will yield \$4,015,000 cash. The services of these obligations, 6 per cent interest and 1 per cent annual accumulative amortisation, will be \$385,000 annually, but this will not be any addition at all to the present national-debt service, as it will be met, in the first instance, out of revenue accruing from the port fund (that is to say, the taxes above mentioned), and, at the end of eight years, out of the revenue of the port itself, which will still leave sufficient to keep the port in repair. At the end of thirty years the obligations will be entirely redeemed, leaving the revenue of the port free. As to the issue of the obligations, this is not expected to meet with any difficulty whilst the Government maintains the high degree of confidence it now enjoys, and for the matter of that, they should be covered by local capital, as it is hoped will be mainly the case."

#### TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES IN 1899.

Through the courtesy of Señor Don PRUDENCIO DE MURGUIONDO, Consul-General of Uruguay, the Bureau of the American Republics is enabled to give the following figures regarding the trade between the United States and Uruguay from January 1 to June 30, 1899:

Exports to Uruguay .....	\$628, 202. 42
Exports to Uruguay, same period 1898. ....	691, 397. 15

Showing a decrease of..... 63, 194. 73



The exports from New York for the same period show an increase over 1898 of \$80,613.92.

There were no shipments of any kind from any of the Southern ports of the United States in 1899, while for the last six months of 1898 pitch pine and rosin were shipped to the value of \$131,309.07. Baltimore, Philadelphia, Boston, and Portland show the balance of loss in the value of exports for 1899, which, added to New York's increase, would show a total falling off in the latter ports of \$143,808.66.

#### EXPERIMENTS IN RICE PLANTING.

Under date of May 30, 1899, Hon. WILLIAM R. FINCH forwarded to the Department of State at Washington the following clipping from a Montevideo newspaper, showing the surprising yield of rice in the Department of Rivera:

"The first planting of rice by Mr. JUAN LEMOS was 1½ kilograms (3.3 pounds), which yielded 150 kilograms (331 pounds), a profit of 100 to 1. A sample of the rice has been inspected and is pronounced to be of the best quality. Encouraged by this splendid result, Mr. LEMOS will extend his plantations next year. If the enthusiasm for national production spreads, the Department of Rivera will, from its soil and climatic conditions, become one of the richest in the country."

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

The United States Patent Office, on July 25, 1899, issued to TITO L. CARBONE, a resident of Montevideo, Uruguay, a patent for an apparatus for shaping lids of sheet-metal boxes.

Lloyd's Agency, through the Uruguayan Legation in London, has made application to the Government of Uruguay for permission to establish a signal or semaphore station, to signal passing vessels, near Cape Santa Maria, where such a station would be of great service to navigation. The petition also asks the grant of a site of half a hectare of land for the purpose.

### VENEZUELA.

#### NEW TARIFF LAW.

General IGNACIO ANDRADE, President of the United States of Venezuela, in the exercise of the authority granted him by articles 4 and 12 of the latest tariff law passed by the National Congress at its regular session this year, decrees:

"ARTICLE 1. The importation through the custom-houses of the Republic of revolvers of all kinds and caps for the same is allowed, upon complying with the requirements of article 5 of the tariff law relating to the introduction of firearms. Revolvers will pay on entry the duty designated in the law for articles of the eighth class, and caps that designated for articles of the sixth class.

"ART. 2. The merchandise hereinbelow mentioned, upon being introduced through the custom-houses of the Republic, shall be appraised as follows:

"White paper for printing, unsized, included under No. 31 of the new tariff law, will be appraised under the second class, and will pay 12½ centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Table or olive oil, included under No. 32, will be appraised in the third class, and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Common bottles of dark or ordinary clear glass and the jars in which gin ordinarily comes, included under No. 13, will be appraised under the first class and will pay 2 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Implements for the arts and trades, with or without handles, and wooden boxes containing some of these implements, all of which articles are included under No. 65, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Angers and drills for perforating stone and logs, included under No. 113, will be appraised under the second class and will pay 12½ centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Linseed oil, included under No. 183, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Crushed groats for making vermicelli, included under No. 233, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Pure lard, unmixed with other fats, included under No. 249, will be appraised under the third class and will pay 30 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Almond oil, included under No. 295, will be appraised under the fourth class and will pay 90 centimos of a bolivar per kilo.

"Essences, perfumery, extracts of all kinds, perfumed rice powders and the like, toilet waters, pomades, cosmetics, perfumed oils and soaps, included in Nos. 295, 300, 301, 343, and 380, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolivars per kilo.

"Baize in pieces, and coverlets of the same, included under No. 311, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolivars per kilo.

"Binder twine and thread for sewing sails, and all twisted thread in the form of cord, or cotton cords, white or colored, either loosely twisted for hand knitting or hard twist like twine for other uses, included under No. 355, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolivars per kilo.

"Sateens or satins, nainsook, calicos, brillantines, lustering, cretons, carlanaues, percales, picqués, cotton merinos and fine cotton striped goods, or those having more than thirteen threads warp and woof to the five square millimeters, and all other like cotton goods, included under No. 387, will be appraised under the sixth class and will pay 3 bolivars per kilo.

"Hats of black silk plush, high crown, known as high hats, and other hats of this form of whatever material, including in this class opera hats, hat patterns, foulard felts, and any other kind of hats finished up or half finished, included under No. 500, will be appraised in the ninth class and will pay 24 bolivars per kilo.

"Chromos of all kinds, included under No. 509, will be appraised in the fifth class and will pay 1 bolivar and 50 centimos per kilo.

"ART. 3. The new tariff law, passed by the National Congress at its regular session of this year, will go into effect on the 1st of September next.

"Federal Palace in Caracas, June 17, 1899."

## IMPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES IN JUNE, 1899.

The Consul-General of Venezuela in New York City, Señor ANTONIO E. DELFINO, has sent to the Bureau of the American Republics statistical data concerning the export trade of the United States with Venezuela during the month of June, 1899, made through the port of New York to several Venezuelan ports, accompanied by a résumé of this trade as compared with the exports during the same months in 1898. The total for June this year amounts to 47,594 packages, weighing 2,627,668.70 kilograms, valued at \$265,118.73, as against 40,787 packages, weighing 2,231,058.85 kilograms, valued at \$188,852.53, giving a net increase of \$76,266.20 for 1899, made up as follows: Merchandise, \$26,266.20; specie, \$50,000.

The exports in June, 1899, as compared with corresponding period in 1898, were as follows: La Guaira, \$162,662.34 (increase, \$50,000 in gold coin and \$15,797.79 merchandise); Puerto Cabello, \$30,656.45 (increase \$2,942.06); Maracaibo, \$46,370.42 (increase, \$14,330.40); La Vela, \$6,753.19 (decrease, \$3,038.91); Guanta, \$347.83 (decrease, \$436.40); Cumaná, \$1,334 (decrease, \$68); Carúpano, \$1,120 (decrease, \$4,354.24); Ciudad, Bolívar, \$15,874.50 (increase, \$2,497.50). There were no exports to Caño Colorado in 1899, which for 1898 took merchandise valued at \$1,404.

The principal articles shipped were the following: Flour, \$42,546.20; lard, \$33,322; cotton goods, bleached, \$17,554.73; provisions, \$13,172; haberdashery and miscellaneous, \$13,086.26; butter, \$11,860; drugs and perfumery, \$10,157.99; machinery, \$8,507; kerosene, \$7,728; cotton goods, gray drills, etc., \$7,053; hardware, \$6,766.75; cotton prints, calicoes, etc., \$6,713; barbed wire and staples, \$5,742; canvas and ducks, \$4,465.87; cut tobacco, \$4,646; cordage, \$4,209; soap and candle materials, \$3,143.08, and \$50,000 gold coin.

## THE ORINOCO IRON MINES.

The "Iron World" for July 27 says that the Supreme Court of Venezuela has decided the suit of the "Orinoco Iron Company" against what is known as the "English Raleigh Syndicate" in favor of the former company. The litigation, which has been in progress for some time, was instituted for the purpose of determining the title to large holdings of iron-ore property on the Orinoco River. It appears that the Orinoco Iron Company is a corporation organized in the State of Wisconsin, United States, and the recent decision gives the company control of some 14,000 acres of land which is rich in a number of mineral deposits. The concession was obtained in 1883, being originally acquired by CYRUS FITZGERALD, formerly manager of the "El Callao" mine of Venezuela. Only a few cargoes of the iron ore have ever been brought to the United States, but it is reported that arrangements are now being made for opening the mines and providing for a regular

business. Chief Engineer DAVID LAWSON and Assistant Engineers ROBINSON and LYLE are on the ground and work has begun.

Regarding the ore of the mines in question, Mr. S. NORTON, who has twice visited them in a professional capacity, reports that the first occurrence of the ore is on the Imataca Mountains, about 54 miles from the mouth of the Orinoco. The first mines were opened near the island of Corisimo, and large vessels are able to approach within 50 feet of the shore. At this point the ore is about 1,600 feet from the river and some 200 feet above it, appearing as bowlders from 100 pounds to 100 tons in weight, and covering the tops of the hills for a distance of 3,000 feet in length and 100 feet in width. Mr. NORTON estimates that there were between 150,000 and 200,000 tons of Bessemer ore in sight, and thinks that the true vein has a thickness of 12 feet. Bowlders of ore are found to the westward of this place for 35 miles. In this direction the hills increase in height and the ore increases with the size of the hills, the outcrop being at some points from 100 to 300 feet wide, and thousands of tons lie at the surface. A sample of the Imataca ore, as analyzed by Mr. CLEMENS JONES, and quoted by Mr. JOHN BIRKINBINE in a report to the United States Geological Survey, gave the following results: Metallic iron, 66.76; silica, 0.69; lime, 3.28; manganese, 0.07; sulphur, 0.011; phosphorus, 0.0327.

It would therefore appear that the Orinoco ores may come into the market as rivals to those now brought to the seacoast cities of the United States.

#### A UNITED STATES BANK IN CARACAS.

Under date of May 5, 1899, Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, United States Consul at Maracaibo, made a report to the Department of State at Washington in regard to the establishment at Caracas of a banking institution by United States citizens, represented by Mr. GEORGE W. UPTON. In a communication to the Consul, Mr. UPTON says that the capital of the bank is to be 15,000,000 bolivars (\$2,895,000); it is to be installed within four months, and the charter will last fifty years. The Government has been petitioned to grant free introduction of the furniture and materials necessary for the construction of the buildings. Mr. PLUMACHER adds that such an enterprise in Maracaibo would be remunerative and would facilitate United States trade.

#### INLAND NAVIGATION PROJECT.

Writing from Caracas under date of June 16, 1899, Hon. FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, United States Minister to Venezuela, informs the Department of State at Washington in regard to a plan recently presented to the Government which looks to the construction of the greatest system of inland waterways in the world. It is proposed to connect by means of canals the great river systems of South America, making a navigable

waterway from the valley of the Orinoco to that of La Plata, inclusive. The estimated cost of this work is \$200,000,000, which figure, however, is largely conjectural, as no accurate surveys or detailed statement of the probable cost has ever been made. It is not unlikely, continues Mr. LOOMIS, that this matter will be taken up seriously by some of the South American Governments within a few years.

#### HARBOR REGULATIONS OF PUERTO CABELLO.

Under date of June 15, 1899, Mr. WILLIAM H. VOLKMAR, Vice-Consul for the United States at Puerto Cabello, sent to the Department of State at Washington a copy of the new harbor regulations of that port. These regulations are very complete and consist of thirty eight different articles, besides a note regarding the location of three buoys placed to protect the submarine cable between Puerto Cabello and La Guaira. The regulations are printed in full in the "Advance Sheets of the Consular Reports" for July 31 (No. 490), issued by the Department of Foreign Commerce at Washington.

#### COTTON GOODS TRADE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

According to the official statistics issued by Great Britain, the values of cotton piece goods sold to Venezuela for the six months ending June 30, 1899, as compared with the same months in 1898, were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Unbleached.....	£12,090	£5,861
Bleached.....	90,509	41,527
Printed.....	86,843	39,332
Dyed.....	51,186	14,080
Total.....	240,628	100,800

These figures, valuing the pound sterling at \$4.866, give a total of \$1,170,895.85 for 1899, and \$490,492.80 for 1898, or an increase in the six months of 1899 of over 140 per cent.

#### REQUEST FOR THE ASHES OF A GREAT DISCOVERER.

The "New York Tribune," of July 27, says that the Venezuelan Government recently addressed a friendly request to the Government of Santo Domingo relative to the remains of the famous ALONZO DE OJEDA, who discovered Venezuela, the Gulf of Mexico, and the Lake of Maracaibo, and who died and was buried in Dominican territory. Venezuela desires that the remains of this distinguished man may be transferred to Maracaibo, in the State of Zulia, whose Governor, Dr. JESUS MUÑOZ TEBAR, was formerly Minister of Public Works. The

late President of the Dominican Republic, ULISE HEUREAUX, also had a profound respect for all traditions, and was a preserver of relics connected with the history of his country and of America in general. He caused the building of a handsome mausoleum at Santo Domingo, where were deposited, last December, the alleged remains of CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS; these, according to the Dominicans, were the real remains of the great Genoese discoverer, and only the ashes of DIEGO, the son of COLUMBUS, were transferred from Havana, Cuba, to the cathedral at Seville, Spain, by the Spanish when they evacuated Cuba. The newspapers of Santo Domingo and public opinion there approved of the intention of President HEUREAUX to decline the request, and in all probability OJEDA's remains will be left near where he died.

#### MISCELLANEOUS NOTES.

According to the "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce," all the hardware sold in Venezuela is sent from the United States, England, and Germany. The imports of these goods from France are very small.

United States citizens have secured a concession from the Government of Venezuela to build a railroad from Puerto Cabello to Barquisimeto, in the interior, a distance of 100 miles.

By administrative decree, the concession granted to WILLIAM H. VOLKMAR, a citizen of the United States, to manufacture whisky in the Republic of Venezuela, which was declared forfeited by resolution of August 4, 1898, has been revived and modifications have been made in the original contract of concession, the grantee being given an extension of nine months in which to perform his obligations. The grantee has work on the distillery well under way. The whisky trust of the United States is said to be behind this undertaking.

#### HAMBURG'S ALL AMERICA EXPORT TRADE.

The Bureau has received, through the courtesy of Dr. VERSMANN, Bürgermeister, of Hamburg, Germany, the statistics of the commerce and navigation of Hamburg for 1898.

The following table shows the amount of exports from Hamburg to the several countries of the American continent:

	Marks.
British North America.....	11, 643, 630
United States (Atlantic coast) .....	147, 465, 640
United States (Pacific coast).....	2, 000, 940
Mexico (Atlantic coast).....	22, 194, 990
Mexico (Pacific coast) .....	3, 508, 080

#### CENTRAL AMERICA.

Guatemala.....	3, 524, 960
British Honduras.....	54, 930

	Marks.
Honduras .....	692, 040
Salvador .....	1, 046, 540
Nicaragua .....	871, 390
Costa Rica .....	2, 017, 680
Porto Rico .....	2, 238, 710
Cuba .....	1, 653, 490
Barbados .....	119, 860
Haiti .....	1, 045, 460
Santo Domingo .....	1, 542, 760
Jamaica .....	458, 840
Trinidad .....	311, 830
Bahamas .....	28, 460
Other islands .....	86, 610
St. Thomas .....	463, 390
Curaçao .....	373, 420
Guiana .....	216, 560
Venezuela .....	6, 577, 750
Colombia (on Caribbean) .....	5, 660, 240
Colombia (Pacific coast) .....	1, 031, 050
Paraguay .....	223, 190
Brazil .....	68, 332, 760
Argentine Republic .....	36, 989, 840
Falkland Islands .....	7, 670
Uruguay .....	8, 623, 950
Chile .....	31, 734, 430
Bolivia .....	2, 926, 560
Peru .....	8, 066, 980
Ecuador .....	4, 195, 800

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### BOOK NOTICES.

"Segundo Censo de la República Argentina, Mayo 10, de 1895" (second census of the Argentine Republic, May 10, 1895), is the title of the work mentioned in the July number of the BULLETIN, and which merits more than the passing notice there given it. The text is in Spanish and French. Volume I of the work treats of the territory of the Republic, and consists of two chapters divided into several parts, written by men eminently equipped for the task they assumed. Chapter I includes a number of subjects, all treated entertainingly and understandingly, such as a geographical synopsis, geology, a geologico-paleontological synopsis, climate, flora, and fauna. Chapter II is devoted to history, immigration, and colonization. The volume contains 56 illustrations in the way of maps, charts, and lithographic reproductions of photographs of many species of the country's flora. Volume II is devoted to the population, and its single chapter considers the results of the census from every possible point of view—numerical, comparative, physical, etc. Many full-page charts and diagrams in colors, illustrative of

the text, are included in the volume. Volume III relates to complementary statistics, and covers (Chapters IV to XV, inclusive) the following subjects: A political and administrative résumé, statistics regarding buildings, the national guard, newspapers and libraries, hospitals, churches, agriculture, live stock, manufactures and industries, commerce, means of communication, diversions, social statistics, charities, etc. The work, which is most creditable, typographically and otherwise, was issued from the presses of the national penitentiary, and comprises 2,000 copies of Volume I, 4,000 of Volume II, and 2,500 of Volume III.

The first census of the Argentine was taken in 1869, when the population was 1,830,214; the figures given by the 1895 census are 4,044,911, showing an increase in 25.66 years of 2,214,697, or 121 per cent, the like of which it is claimed the demographic history of the world has not heretofore recorded. One of the plates in Volume II shows graphically the annual rate of increase of population in the leading countries of the world, from which it appears that the rate of increase per annum, from 1869 to 1895, in the Argentine was 49.8 per thousand, which exceeds any other nation by more than 10 per cent. Other interesting statistics are the following: The Argentine population was: Males, 1,452,952; females, 1,497,432. The foreign population was: Males, 635,967; females, 368,560, showing that there were, in 1895, 44,480 more Argentine females than males, while the foreign males outnumbered the females by 267,407. A curious feature of the enumeration is the number of centenarians enrolled—i. e., 229 males and 429 females, a total of 658. The compiler of these latter statistics is doubtful as to their accuracy, and says: "If, in lieu of centenarians, we consider these persons as 90 or more years of age, we shall perhaps get at the truth." The building statistics show that there were in the Republic 1,000 houses of three stories, 10,000 of two stories, and 100,000 of one story. There were 345 periodical publications issued; the number of libraries was 162, containing 383,661 volumes, valued at \$1,654,256; there were 3,735,763 hectares sown in wheat, corn, flax, and barley; the number of horned cattle was 21,701,526; of horses, 4,446,859; asses, 197,872; mules, 285,497; sheep, 74,379,562; hogs, 652,766; goats, 2,748,860; domesticated ostriches, 82,497; chickens, 7,886,354; ducks, geese, and turkeys, 1,224,968. There were 22,204 industrial establishments employing 145,650 hands, with an invested capital of \$284,101,367, national currency. In 1896 the total length of railway lines in operation was 14,462 kilometers, representing an investment in capital of \$497,826,305, gold.

The second number of Volume II of the "Anglo-American Magazine" for August, 1899, published in New York and London, contains a short article on "Ecuador and its Prospects," by ST. GEORGE LANE FOX PITT. The writer has recently visited the country on behalf of the



Guayaquil and Quito Railway Company, "an Anglo-American undertaking which is destined to open up the interior of the country to foreign trade and enterprise." He avers his confidence in the importance of Ecuador as a market for British and American exports, as a field of exploitation for the mining engineer, and the planter acquainted with more scientific methods than those prevailing there at present, and, finally, as a charming resort for the tourist on health and pleasure bent, asserting that before long it will become as universally recognized as a sanitarium as are California and South Africa. The writer dwells upon the fertility of the tropical districts of the country, and states that it is one of the three greatest cacao-producing regions of the world, saying that were more care bestowed upon the preparation of the pods that it would indisputably occupy the first place. "As to the fertility of the country for the growth not only of cacao, but of coffee, india rubber, cinchona, ivory nuts, and other vegetable products, there can be no question. Petroleum is also found in abundance near the coast, and in the neighboring district of Peru it appears to be a remunerative industry for those who work it. Petroleum is likewise known to exist in the mountains of Ecuador and \* \* \* what is perhaps of equal importance, there are rich and extensive seams of coal."

The article states that the revenue of the country is derived to the extent of over 70 per cent from custom-house receipts: that in 1897 the budget of these amounted to 4,000,000 *sucre*s, but that during the following year it bounded up to about 6,500,000 *sucre*s. "In the next budget they may very likely figure as 10,000,000."

The article is illustrated with reproductions of four photographs taken by the writer during his visit to the country.

A recent publication issued by the United States Bureau of Education is in the shape of a pamphlet containing Chapter XXII of the report of the Commissioner of Education, and is a report prepared by Mr. F. F. HILDER on "Education in the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, and Brazil." In the Argentine Republic a law was passed in 1884 making education free and obligatory for all children, both male and female, between the ages of 6 and 14, and creating a national board of education. By the same law the promotion of education was provided for by the appropriation of funds from the public revenues for its sustenance. In the year 1897 the amount of the appropriations for educational purposes in the Republic was \$17,551,363, or 6.28 per cent of the whole revenue of the country. The statistics for January, 1897, were as follows: Public schools, 2,838; in the capital, 211; normal schools, 37; in the capital, 3; private schools, 1,111, in the capital, 249; total, 3,986; in the capital, 463. Number of pupils: in the capital, 79,240; all others, 365,841. Number of teachers: 2,497 in the capital, and 10,295 elsewhere. All the different schools for higher education are described, including literary and scientific societies. Regarding Uruguay the author says,

"the energetic and indomitable spirit of the people, which successfully achieved their liberty and right of self-government, now that it is directed in the paths of progress, is accomplishing magnificent results, and in no direction is this more evident than in the advanced educational system which has been evolved." There are, including both public and private schools, one school to every 897 inhabitants, and one scholar to every 11 people. Montevideo is the seat of all the leading higher educational, scientific, and art institutions of the country, of which a description is given. By the provisions of the constitution of Brazil, Congress is given authority to promote the development of literature, arts, and sciences, and the sole power to create institutions of higher instruction and secondary or high-school education throughout the Republic and primary schools in the Federal District. The latest statistics available give the number of public primary schools as 7,017, with about 300,000 pupils. The different schools of higher education are enumerated in this work, with the courses of study in each.

The writings of THEODORE HAENKE, preceded by a biographical sketch by M. V. BALLIVIAN and PEDRO KRAMER, have been published by "El Nacional" press at La Paz, Bolivia (1898). In the introduction the editors give a retrospect of the first voyages of discovery in South America, as well of the conquests and journeys of the missionaries in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. The first really scientific expedition to South America was that of LA CONDAMINE (1736-1748). The second, that of RUIZ and PAVON to Peru (1778). The third, the journey of ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT and BONPLAND. The Geographer AZARA traveled and worked in the interior of the South American countries during the years 1784-1792. The geography, flora and fauna of South America was little known at the end of the eighteenth century. Under the auspices of CHARLES III of Spain an extensive scientific expedition was sent out to make a journey around the world for the purpose of determining more accurately the location of the Spanish colonies. This expedition consisted of the corvettes *Descubierta* and *Atrevida*, under command of ALEJ. MALASPINA, and departed from Cadiz in July, 1789. A small number of learned men, especially naturalists, accompanied the expedition, and among them THEODORE HAENKE, a Bohemian by birth, was to have served as botanist. HAENKE, however, arrived in Cadiz one day too late, the expedition having sailed without him. Nothing daunted, he took the next ship to Montevideo. This was wrecked in the La Plata and HAENKE lost nearly everything saving his life. Notwithstanding, he performed what would be considered an almost impossible feat, walking straight through South America from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso, where he met MALASPINA, going with him to Mexico, then to Peru, the Mariana and Philippine Islands, previously having investigated the interior of Peru.

The closing chapter of the introduction is most interesting to Americans, containing as it does a critical review of HAENKE's manuscripts, now preserved in the National Library of Buenos Ayres.

Puerto Rico was originally covered with forests from the level of the sea to the summit of its mountains. It is doubtful if there was a single foot of its area which was not at some time covered by tree growth, varying in height from the diminutive mangrove bushes, which border the seashore, to the gigantic deciduous trees mingled with the fronds and trunks of towering palms, which add height to the loftiest peaks and ridges. The island, although still wooded in the sense that it is dotted by many beautiful trees, is now, from a commercial point of view, largely deforested. In January, 1899, Mr. ROBERT T. HILL, geologist, connected with the United States Geological Survey, made a trip through the military department of Puerto Rico, during which he became familiar with its forests, and, by inquiry among various persons engaged in woodworking trades, obtained much information as to the qualities and uses of the various native timbers. The results of Mr. HILL'S observations are embraced in "Bulletin No. 35" of the Division of Forestry of the United States Department of Agriculture, entitled "Notes on the Forest Conditions of Puerto Rico," now in press and soon to be issued by the Department. The report contains not only a statement of the forest resources of the country and the extent of its timber lands, but also descriptions of the mountains, valleys, geology, soils, and flora of the island. The characteristics of 15 Puerto Rican woods are given in detail. In the study and description of the native woods, reproductions of 15 of which appear in the bulletin, Mr. HILL was assisted by Mr. GEORGE D. SUDWORTH, dendrologist of the Division of Forestry. The representations of the woods are produced by impressions made directly upon pieces of the various kinds themselves. The bulletin contains a frontispiece, 8 plates, and 9 text figures.

A question which has caused some discussion in European trade papers has recently been answered by Mr. FRANZ BUETTGENBACH, a mining engineer at Aachen, Germany, in a work entitled "Geschichtliches über die Entwicklung des 800 Jährigen Steinkohlenbergbanes an der Worms, 1113-1898." The query under discussion was "When did the inhabitants of Europe first begin to mine coal?" Ancient Scottish records show that in the year 1214, before the close of the reign of the Scotch King, "William the Lion," coal was attracting attention on the south shore of the Firth of Forth; and also that during the same reign, a grant of the title of the colliery of Cariden was made to the monks of Holyrood Abbey, Edinburgh. These were believed by the English savants to be the first authentic accounts of the existence of coal. German documents unearthed by Mr. BUETTGENBACH, how-

ever, leave no doubt that coal was found and worked in the Worms district at least one hundred years previously, or as far back as 1113. This author published a previous work bearing on the same subject.

"The Meteorological Chart of the Great Lakes" for June, issued by the Weather Bureau of the United States, presents a chart of the normal annual precipitation of rain and snow in the drainage basin of the chain of Great Lakes in the northern part of the United States, with a set of tables and a brief summary prepared by Mr. A. J. HENRY. The conclusion is reached that the influence, in the United States and Canada, of these lakes on precipitation is not so great as is generally believed, and is stated as follows: "With the possible exception of Lake Superior, the lakes do not appear to have a very marked influence on the precipitation over the adjacent land areas. There is more precipitation on the south sides than on the north sides of Lakes Superior, Erie, and Ontario, the difference in the case of Lake Superior being about 8 inches, while the average on the south shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario are both about 3 inches more than on the north shores. The eastern shores of Lakes Michigan and Huron have a greater precipitation than the western, but this condition is not so strongly marked as in the other cases noted. The annual precipitation is somewhat less over the upper peninsula of Michigan as compared with the immediate shore line, and the precipitation over the interior of the same State is considerably less than on the shores of the lakes on either side.

The "National Geographic Magazine" for August, 1899, contains an article from the pen of JOSEPH NIMMO, Jr., LL. D., entitled "The proposed American Interoceanic Canal in its Commercial Aspects." The author begins with the statement that "the question as to the practicability of either the Nicaragua or the Panama Canal project depends upon three classes of considerations, viz. those relating to its engineering aspects, involving questions as to cost; those relating to its commercial possibilities, and those relating to its military importance. The Government of the United States has thus far confined its inquiries almost exclusively to the engineering features of the project." Mr. NIMMO says that neither the Nicaragua Canal nor the Panama Canal would afford the shortest or the most practicable route for the trade of the Atlantic seaboard of the United States or for the trade of the countries of Europe with Asia or Australia, and presents figures to substantiate his statement. The paper is a valuable contribution to the subject, though many of the arguments used against the construction of the canal are not new.

Dr. FRANCISCO ANDRADE MARÍN, a well-known Ecuadorian jurist, has been engaged by the Government of Ecuador to prepare two works: "Clave de la Legislación Ecuatoriana" (Key to Ecuadorian Legislation), one volume, to contain all matters cognate to the subject, and to have

an appendix giving: 1. The constitution of the Republic. 2. Data relating to the Geography and Statistics of Ecuador. 3. The law as to territorial divisions. 4. The itinerary of the Republic. 5. Legal forms. The second work is to be in two volumes, and entitled "Compilación de todas las leyes ecuatorianas vigentes no comprendidas en los Códigos Civil, Penal, Militar, Mercantil, y de Minería" (compilation of all Ecuadorian laws in force not comprised in the civil, penal, military, mercantile, and mining codes). The first volume is to contain these laws, with brief annotations, while the second will be devoted solely to treaties and international conventions. The Government will publish 3,000 copies of each within six months.

At the instance of Señor Don ANTONIO BARRIOS, Minister of the Interior, Señor JOSÉ HORTA has prepared a pamphlet of 20 pages, entitled "El Hule en Guatemala." This publication, which was issued by the Government (Tipografía Nacional) during the present year, favors the cultivation of rubber (*Castilloa elastica*) in the Republic. A further report is understood to be in preparation. Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, Consul-General of the United States, forwarded to the Department of State a translation of portions of Señor HORTA's pamphlet, which was published in "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports, No. 370," by the Bureau of Foreign Commerce of the United States. In this connection attention is called to an article published in "De Indische Mercur," Batavia, Java, by M. ALBERTO, entitled "Commendation of Hule (*Castilloa elastica*) gathered in Guatemala."

Some five years ago Mr. E. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Commissioner of Navigation of the United States, undertook a compilation of the laws of the United States relating to navigation and the merchant marine. The volume, published in 1895, proved so convenient to the shipping interests for reference purposes, and especially in the offices of admiralty lawyers, who could get from it in a very few minutes information requiring hours of labor over the statutes, that there was a great demand for it. Now the Commissioner has compiled a new edition, which has just been issued by the Bureau of Navigation, incorporating all legislation up to March 4, 1899, when the last Congress adjourned.

The "Textile World's Directory of the Textile Trades of the United States for 1899" has been issued. The three divisions of the book contain data concerning the location and equipment of the textile mills of the country, and also the addresses of the agents and buyers of textiles, and the dealers in raw materials and stock. The work on the book appears to have been done in a thorough manner, and the information has been made easy of access by being arranged alphabetically under States, cities, and towns. A series of maps is incorporated which indicate the location of the "mill cities" and "mill towns" in the principal manufacturing States.

The general managers of the Pan-American Exposition, which will be held in the city of Buffalo, State of New York, during the summer and autumn of the year 1901, have begun the publication of a journal in the interest of the exposition. The first number of this publication, which is handsomely printed and finely illustrated, was issued on July 15. For the present it will be issued semimonthly, and will be dated on the 1st and 15th of each month, respectively; later on, as the exposition plans proceed more swiftly, it will be issued at more frequent intervals and in enlarged form.

Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT HURST has issued a book of 98 pages, with maps, entitled "Isthms of Panama, Nicaragua, Canal Routes, Etc." This work is a compilation of various articles on the subject written for the technical journals by the author and other writers. It also contains a collection of reports, letters, memoranda, etc., by several engineers, travelers, and others who have studied the canal problem from personal observation. In addition to Panama and Nicaragua, other routes, such as San Blas and Darien, together with the Tehuantepec ship railway, are reviewed.

The "Transactions of the New England Cotton Manufacturers' Association" at the annual meeting held in Boston on April 27, 28, and 29, 1899, have been published in pamphlet form by the Association, 45 Milk street, Boston, Massachusetts. There were present at the meeting 287 members and guests. Among the numerous papers presented upon various topics of special interest was one by Dr. W. P. WILSON, Director of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum, upon "The Cotton Trade with our newly acquired Territories." In the absence of Dr. WILSON the paper was read by Mr. E. W. S. TINGLE, of Philadelphia.

In A. D. 1900, it is stated by a correspondent of the "India Rubber World," under date of Pará, June 1, 1899, "in commemoration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of Brazil, a book will be published, prepared by some of the most eminent writers in the Republic," having for its object "a description of the country and its resources." The Baron of MARAJO will prepare the chapters on the "Geography of Brazil" and Senhor J. LUCIO D'AZEVEDO those on the "Extractive Industry," which will contain a complete history of rubber.

The Division of Customs and Insular Affairs of the War Department of the United States has, within the last month, issued in pamphlet form the following publications with reference to Cuba and Porto Rico: "Constitution Establishing Self-Government in the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico, Promulgated by Royal Decree of November 25, 1897;" "The Notarial Laws in Force in Cuba and Puerto Rico (1888);" and "Provincial and Municipal Laws of Puerto Rico." These are all English translations of the original Spanish laws, which to a great extent are still in force.

The "Monthly Weather Review" (United States) for May contained an exhaustive article on the "Climatology of the Isthmus of Panama," by H. T. ABBOTT, Brigadier-General, U. S. A. (retired), with a valuable appendix by Professor A. J. HENRY, containing data of the precipitation at different points on the isthmus. The same Review contained a paper on "Rainfall and Temperature in Nicaragua," contributed by Mr. A. P. DAVIS.

On July 27, Mr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Director of the Geological Survey of the United States, issued a very handsome map and important descriptions of routes of explorations in Alaska in 1898, with general information concerning the Territory. The Fifty-fifth Congress of the United States provided \$20,000 for surveys in Alaska and in pursuance of this legislation several expeditions of geologists and topographers were organized. The publication referred to is the result of their work in Alaska.

"Por Mares y por Tierras" is the title of a work by EDUARDO WILDE, which is divided into the following chapters: I. Europe—Various points; II. Africa—The Mediterranean Shores; III. South America—Chile and Peru; IV. Around the World—Itinerary of a trip from Buenos Ayres to England, Germany, France, Italy, Suez Canal, Red Sea, Ceylon, China, Japan, Honolulu, North America, Lisbon, and Rio de Janeiro. It is a most interesting work and is published by the house of JACOBO PEUSER, Buenos Ayres.

"Güia General de Mexico," issued by the publishing house of RAMÓN DE S. N. ARALUCE, City of Mexico, is the title of a work which has claimed attention at home and abroad. It bristles with data anent the Mexico of to-day, containing most interesting matter relating to the country from a political, commercial, industrial, railroad, scientific, and literary standpoint. It is also profusely illustrated, and is intended to be exhibited at the Paris Exposition, to show the advancement of the country in culture and arts of peace.

"Curso de Historia Argentina" (Course in Argentine History) is the title of a book which will be published in Buenos Ayres before the end of the year, and which is intended for use in the national colleges of that Republic. Señor Dr. M. GARCÍA MÉROU, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Argentine Republic at Washington, is the author of the work, whose name upon the title-page will recommend it to all students of the annals of the progressive southern country.

The sixth annual report, 1898, of the Bureau of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry of the State of Montana, J. H. CALDERHEAD, Commissioner, bears the suggestive title of "The Treasure State: Montana and its Magnificent Resources". The chief treasures of this State are its great mineral resources, copper leading all, and its agricultural possibilities. The report makes a volume of 120 pages and contains several maps.

"The Board of Trade Journal" (London) for July contains some interesting articles concerning some of the countries belonging to the International Union of American Republics. They are. "The Trade, Industry, and Shipping of Mexico" (with map), "Railways in Venezuela," "Light Railways in Argentina," "Wire Industry of the United States," and "Agricultural Industry of the Hawaiian Islands."

A report of the Evangelical Society for German immigrants in Brazil states that nearly every ship arriving in that country brings numbers of people who would have done better to have remained at home. Mercantile men, clerks, teachers, and those of similar occupations can secure positions only with great difficulty. Mechanics, to some extent, and agriculturists have the best chance of success.

"The American Monthly Review of Reviews" for August, 1899, contains an interesting article on "Puerto Rico from a Woman's Point of View," from the pen of Mrs. GUY V. HENRY, wife of the former Military Governor of the Island. The article treats the subject largely from an educational standpoint, and is illustrated.

Mr. C. WILLARD HAYS writes interestingly of the "Niagara Canal" in the "National Geographic Magazine" for July. Mr. A. P. DAVIS supplements this paper with a sketch of the Panama survey. The work of the Coast and Geodetic Survey of the United States is described in the same issue of this periodical.

"Sarmiento" is the name of a new encyclopedic and illustrated review, devoted to the arts, sciences, letters, agriculture, stock raising, industries, and commerce, which has lately made its appearance in Buenos Ayres. It is published by the firm of SCHURER-STÖLLE.

"La Vie sur les Hautes Plateaux," by Prof. A. L. HERRERA and Dr. VERGARA LOPE, is a quarta volume of 790 pages, which has just been issued in the City of Mexico, and is for sale at the office of "El Progreso de Mexico," City of Mexico.

A second edition of the "Hand Book of Rio de Janeiro" is now in the course of revision and will be published at an early date, considerably improved and enlarged. It will be published by the office of "The Rio News."

The Division of Customs and Insular Affairs of the War Department of the United States has published a "Translation of the Law of Railroads for the Island of Cuba, and Regulations for its Execution (1895)."

An account of the "Survival of Paganism among the Mexican Indians," from the pen of Prof. FREDERICK STARR, is to be found in the July number of "The Open Court."



A new edition of the "Customs Regulations and Tariff of Mexico," including all amendments and additions to date, has just been issued by the Mexican Government.

"Donahoe's Magazine" for July contains an entertaining illustrated paper on Niaragna, by E. LYELL EARLE.

### PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

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

"Memoria de la Secretaria de Hacienda y Crédito Público, correspondiente al año de 1898, presentada á la Asamblea Nacional Legislativa de 1899." Guatemala, National Printing Office.

"Dirección del Hospital General y sus Dependencias. Informe y Estados del año de 1898." Guatemala, National Printing Office.

"Sinópsis Geográfica y Estadística del Perú, 1895-1898." Lima, office of "El Tiempo."

CONTE ANGELO DE GUBERNATIS: "L'Argentina. Ricordi e Letture." Firenze. Bernardo Seeber, libraio editore, 1898.

JUAN A. ALSINA: "La Inmigración Europea en la República Argentina." Buenos Aires, 1898.

FRANCISCO SEGUI: "Saladeros. Situación de la Industria Saladeril. Datos de actualidad." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"L'Agriculture, l'Elevage, l'Industrie et le Commerce dans la Province de Buenos Aires." 1895.

"Memoria Demográfica, año 1895." Published under the direction of CARLOS P. SALAS, La Plata, 1898.

LUIS V. VARELA: "En la Cordillera Andina." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Legislación de Impuestos Internos." Buenos Aires, 1897.

"Areglos de Límites entre la República Argentina y Bolivia, 1868-1895."

"La Cordillera de los Andes." 1895.

"Estadística de Ferrocarriles en Explotación." 1898.

M. A. MONTES DE OCA: "Límites con Chile." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Tarifa de Avaluos y Leyes de Organización de los Ministerios é Impuestos y Disposiciones Reglamentarias en vigencia en el año 1899."

"La Australia Argentina." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Memoria del Departamento de Hacienda, Correspondiente al año de 1897." Two volumes.

"Memoria Presentada al Consejo Deliberante por el Intendente Municipal de Buenos Aires en 1897."

"Annuaire Statistique de la Ville de Buenos Aires, VI<sup>me</sup> Année, 1896." Buenos Aires, 1897.

"Anuario Estadístico de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires, VII<sup>o</sup> Año, 1897." Buenos Aires, 1898.

"Compilation of the Organic Provisions of the Administration of Justice in force in the Spanish Colonial Provinces, and Appendices relating thereto." (Translation.) United States War Department, Washington, 1899.

"Adaptation of the Electoral Law of June 26, 1890, to the Islands of Cuba and Puerto Rico." Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, August, 1899.

"Memorándum relativo á la Cuestión Puerto en la Bahía de Montevideo, por el Ministro de Fomento, Dr. D. Carlos María de Pena." Montevideo, 1899.

"Laws relating to the Civil Administration and Government of the Island of Puerto Rico." (Translation.) Division of Customs and Insular Affairs, War Department, 1899.

"Appendix to the Report of the Ontario Bureau of Industries, 1897." Toronto, 1899.

"Actas de la Asamblea General Constituyente y Legislativa del Estado." Tomo I. Montevideo, 1896.

# BOLETÍN MENSUAL

DE LA

## OFICINA DE LAS REPÚBLICAS AMERICANAS,

Unión Internacional de Repúblicas Americanas.

VOL. VII.

AGOSTO, 1899.

No. 2.

### REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA.

#### COMERCIO CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS EN 1899.

Con fecha 6 de mayo de 1899, el Honorable WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en la República Argentina, dirigió al Departamento de Estado en Washington un informe sobre el desarrollo del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y aquel país durante el primer trimestre del año corriente.

Por éste informe se ve que hubo un aumento en lo que se importó de los Estados Unidos y una disminución en lo que para este país se exportó. Anexo al informe hay un cuadro en el que se muestran el aumento y disminución en las importaciones y exportaciones de la República Argentina durante el periodo mencionado, en comparación con el mismo espacio de tiempo en 1898. Por este cuadro se ve que el aumento en la importación está casi dividido en su totalidad entre productos ingleses y americanos, pues el comercio con otros países ha permanecido estacionario. La exportación á Francia, Alemania y Bélgica fué la que aumentó en gran escala. La exportación á los Estados Unidos disminuyó por valor de \$158,311, y á la Gran Bretaña por valor de \$1,940,032. A pesar de la gran disminución respecto de este último país, dice el Ministro que la prensa argentina se ha valido de la reduccion en la cantidad exportada á los Estados Unidos, como de un argumento para demostrar que los derechos impuestos en los Estados Unidos sobre las lanas perjudican el tráfico de aquella República en dicho artículo. La disminucion en lo que se exportó para Chile y para Italia, que son los otros dos países respecto de los cuales se nota bastante esta reduccion, fué respectivamente de \$508,061 y de \$269,597. El valor total de la exportación en el primer trimestre de 1899 fué de \$47,532,893, contra \$43,970,805 en el mismo periodo de 1898, ó sea un aumento de \$3,562,688. El

umento en el valor de la exportación se ha limitado enteramente á las lanas, el precio de las cuales, durante la última parte de la estación, ha sido notablemente elevado, y el artículo de la calidad más fina, según dice el Ministro. Algunas lanas muy finas se vendieron en Buenos Aires á precios más altos que en ninguna época durante los pasados quince años. El valor de la exportación de cereales disminuyó, aunque la cantidad exportada fué mayor. El Ministro envía una tabla en la que se ven los embarques de lanas que se han hecho en la República Argentina desde el 1° de octubre de 1898 hasta el 1° de mayo de 1899, lo cual arroja un gran total de 396,738 pacas. Esto muestra una disminución respecto de la estación anterior, pues en ella los embarques ascendieron á 415,109 pacas. Durante el primer período mencionado se remitieron á los Estados Unidos 6,262 pacas de lana, contra 10,995 en el año precedente. Aunque hubo una baja en el número de pacas de lana, el valor en la estación que terminó el 1° de mayo de 1899 excedió al de la estación anterior en \$4,572,430.

Dice el Ministro que quizá no es fuera de lugar el mencionar que, después de un estudio superficial del asunto, él es de opinión que algunas manufacturas argentinas han recibido provecho material y decidido impulso de la Exposición Nacional de Productos Argentinos, que estuvo abierta en Buenos Aires, y fué muy concurrida durante los últimos tres meses de 1898. El certamen fué una verdadera revelación y "sin duda alguna hizo mucho para estimular el interés, que entónces decaía, en los esfuerzos que constantemente hacían los industriales argentinos para que se mantuviesen tan altos como fuese posible los derechos de aduana sobre géneros importados."

Con fecha 9 de mayo de 1899, Mr. DANIEL MAYER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Buenos Aires, dirigió á Washington un informe sobre el tráfico de importación de la República Argentina durante el primer trimestre de 1899, comparado con el mismo período de 1898. Dicho informe contiene una tabla con las cifras correspondientes á las importaciones totales, según los países de donde provinieron. Los valores se dan en oro argentino, y un peso equivale á .965 en moneda de los Estados Unidos. A continuación se verá la tabla en referencia:

Países.	1899.	1898.	Aumento.	Diminución.
Gran Bretaña.....	\$11,383,548	\$9,596,771	\$1,786,777	.....
Italia.....	3,698,244	3,373,586	324,658	.....
Alemania.....	3,685,693	3,300,716	384,977	.....
Estados Unidos.....	3,513,086	1,896,327	1,616,759	.....
Francia.....	2,827,638	2,706,925	120,713	.....
Belgica.....	2,507,327	2,561,985	.....	\$54,658
Brasil.....	1,040,970	1,173,924	.....	132,954
España.....	645,742	915,567	.....	269,825
Paraguay.....	292,607	345,705	.....	53,098
Uruguay.....	129,607	119,892	9,715	.....
Holandia.....	27,356	18,445	8,911	.....
Portugal.....	23,733	21,348	2,385	.....
Chile.....	19,082	7,341	11,741	.....
Bolivia.....	7,356	6,447	1,099	.....
Las Antillas.....	4,275	7,900	.....	2,725
Otros países.....	14,598	28,207	.....	13,609
Total.....	29,821,072	26,080,196	3,740,876	.....

El Ministro BUCHANAN hace comentarios sobre lo que él considera el aspecto más interesante de la cuestión manufacturera, á saber: el efecto que la rápida elevación en el valor del papel moneda del país ha tenido sobre el arancel de aduanas, y se expresa así: "Los fabricantes y productores de este país están invariablemente oquestos á cualquier plan que tienda á aumentar el valor del papel moneda del país. En el caso de los fabricantes, el 'oro barato,' ó sea la elevación en el valor del papel, equivale á una reducción en los derechos sobre los efectos importados, y esto afecta su negocio, porque bajo tales condiciones encuentran que es más difícil competir con los artículos importados, que cuando el precio de oro es muy alto. Tengo la convicción de que el aumento en las importaciones, al cual se ha hecho referencia, habría sido mucho mayor, si este Gobierno no hubiera mantenido durante este año el derecho de aduana provisional del 10 por ciento, establecido en setiembre próximo pasado como una medida de guerra."

El Ministro presenta un ejemplo del efecto que ha tenido sobre las mercancías importadas, la elevación en el valor del papel moneda, y al mismo tiempo, de las razones que inducen á los fabricantes argentinos á desear moneda barata. El informe completo puede verse en los Consular Reports correspondientes al 10 de julio de 1899.

#### CONDICIONES Y PORVENIR AGRÍCOLAS.

El Consúl británico en Buenos Aires dice, en su informe correspondiente al año de 1898 (Annual Series, Number 2219), que por término medio el año fué bueno para la agricultura en la República, y que el trigo se vendió muy bien. Agrega que se había cosechado mucho trigo en el año de 1898-99, y que, aunque era difícil predecir con certeza á cuanto ascendería la exportación, se creía sin embargo, en la fecha del informe, marzo de 1899, que podía considerarse como seguro que habría un excedente de 1,500,000 toneladas para la exportación, después de haber tomado lo necesario para el consumo del país.

El 1º de junio de 1899, la Junta Nacional de Agricultura publicó un informe estadístico respecto de la última cosecha de trigo, del cual aparece que hasta fines de mayo la producción ascendía á 1,834,067 toneladas. Se dice también en dicho informe que hay que tomar en cuenta el trigo que aun no había sido cosechado, así como lo incompleto de algunos de los datos obtenidos, todo lo cual tiende á probar que la cosecha excedió de 2,000,000 de toneladas. Lo incierto del tiempo hasta el 1º de junio impidió la recolección de muchas cosechas, y según avisos privados, no es justo estimar la cantidad total en solo 2,000,000 de toneladas. El informe contiene los siguientes datos:

	Área en hectáreas.	Rendimiento en toneladas.	Promedio en kilos.
Buenos Aires .....	611,697	602,093	1,177
Santa Fe .....	981,013	763,655	778
Córdoba .....	366,698	340,711	929
Entre Ríos .....	142,962	117,608	893
Total .....	2,102,370	1,824,067	3,777

Por decreto de 8 de mayo de 1899, se ha organizado por el Gobierno argentino en los puertos de Buenos Aires, La Plata, Bahía Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolás y Villa Constitución, un servicio de inspección para el trigo y el maíz. Dicho servicio fué establecido con el objeto de certificar que el grano llena las condiciones necesarias para la transportación y exportación á mercados extrañeros. La inspección no será obligatoria, y solamente se verificará á solicitud de los dueños ó consignatarios, y mediante el pago de 10 centavos por cada mil kilogramos. Los considerandos del decreto indican que su objeto es regularizar las transacciones, evitar en cuanto sea posible medidas restrictivas que pudieran impedir la exportación de granos á los mercados extrañeros, y finalmente, estimular la producción de granos de superior calidad en la República Argentina. También se desea que la inspección, que actualmente se limita al trigo y al maíz, tenga por objeto principal certificar oficialmente que estos productos son sanos, secos y limpios.

En el informe, ya citado, del Cónsul británico, se hace referencia, al hablar de los rápidos progresos que se han hecho y siguen haciéndose en la mejora de las razas de ganados en la Argentina, al hecho de que los que se dedican á la cría de animales en la Gran Bretaña, harían bien en conservar la buena calidad de los que exportan á aquella República, porque en muchas de las estancias argentinas se producen en la actualidad animales de tan fina calidad como los importados. Dice además el informe que por algún tiempo la República Argentina será un excelente mercado para los que se dedican á la cría de ganado vacuno y de ovejas de superior calidad, especialmente estas últimas, y que gran cuidado debe ponerse en escoger las mejores castas inglesas, si se desea conservar su reputación en el mercado.

Los Señores GIBSON BROTHERS de Buenos Aires, publicaron, con fecha 1º de junio, una circular en la que estiman en 555,000 pacas la exportación de lana del Río de la Plata durante la pasada estación. Esta compañía dice que está segura de que se mantendrán firmes los precios de las lanas finas y de las mezcladas de calidad superior durante la estación venidera, debido á que la producción de estas clases de lanas en la Argentina ha disminuido, pues la tendencia ha sido á producir clases más ordinarias, y asimismo á que la producción de Australia se ha reducido á causa de la mortandad en los rebaños.

Como los Estados Unidos son un país que produce y exporta cereales, productos de esta clase no se han introducido de los países del Plata, pero de aquellos productos que son considerados como agrícolas, se han exportado de la República Argentina á los Estados Unidos, durante el primer trimestre del año en curso, las cantidades siguientes: de Buenos Aires: lanas, \$201,935.91; cereos secos, \$667,676.46; tasajo (á la Habana, Cuba), \$59,329.05; pieles de cabra, \$47,894.03; de nutria, \$25,205.06; de ternero, \$10,789.03; de carnero, \$4,247.30; de carpincho, \$2,100; de venado, \$1,245.75; de cabrito, \$933.66; pelo, \$20,264.18;

huesos, \$17,517.35; otros productos animales, \$27,412.98; plumas de avestriz, \$2,288.76.

Del Rosario: ceros secos, \$326,549.89; lanas, \$108,742.25; pieles de cabra, \$199,030.81; otras pieles, \$22,744.38; pelo, \$21,769.55; otros productos animales, \$711.53; plumas, \$550.53; total exportado por ambos puertos, \$1,768,938.46.

#### DATOS ESTADÍSTICOS SOBRE BUENOS AIRES.

En la ciudad de Buenos Aires se publican cada mes los datos estadísticos obtenidos por la municipalidad. Se acaba de recibir dicha publicación correspondiente al mes de abril de 1899, y su contenido es realmente muy significativo. La población de Buenos Aires era en aquella fecha de 774,000 habitantes. El elemento extranjero parece aumentar, tanto en número como en influencia. Los nacimientos durante el mes de abril fueron 2,690 y las defunciones 1,009. La mortalidad entre los niños fué muy grande: incluyendo los que nacieron muertos, la mortalidad ascendió á 419 antes de la edad de 5 años. Entre los adultos, las enfermedades de los pulmones fueron las más fatales. Se atribuyen á enfermedades contagiosas y epidémicas 167 fallecimientos.

En cuanto á los nacimientos, dice el periódico "The Buenos Aires Standard," que de un total de 2,690, no menos de 1,444 fueron de padres extranjeros, y 331 de padres argentinos y madres extranjeras. Los nacimientos de padre y madre argentinos ascendieron á 318, ó sea una pequeña fracción del total. Otro punto notable es que del total de los que murieron más de la mitad fueron argentinos, de donde resulta que tanto los fallecimientos como los nacimientos tienden á la disminución del elemento nativo, y de esta manera la próxima generación mostrará un cambio notable.

#### ESTABLECIMIENTO DE UNA FÁBRICA DE PAPEL.

El periódico "The Wood Pulp News," de Nueva York, correspondiente al 29 de junio de 1899, dice que, según parece, los rumores que por algún tiempo han circulado, respecto del establecimiento de una fábrica de papel cerca de Buenos Aires, están en vía de convertirse en hecho positivo. El lugar escogido para dicha fábrica queda sobre la ribera derecha del río Paraná, y muy cerca de la línea principal de ferrocarril entre Buenos Aires y Río Janeiro, de suerte que la transportación por tierra y por agua será muy fácil. La proyectada fábrica será construída por una compañía que se formará con un capital nominal de £180,000. La maquinaria que se va á emplear será la más perfecta que se conoce, capaz de producir diariamente 20 toneladas de papel para periódicos, papel de escribir y otras clases. Los promotores de la empresa esperan poder suplir el mercado local y exportar gran cantidad de papel á las Repúblicas vecinas.

## BOLIVIA.

## EXPORTACIÓN DE MINERAL DE PLATA Á LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

El primer cargamento de plata y mineral de plata que probablemente ha llegado á los Estados Unidos de la costa occidental de la América del Sur, se recibió en la ciudad de Filadelfia el 18 de julio del año corriente. En esa fecha el vapor inglés *Kentigeru* trajo 16,239 sacos de mineral de plata de superior calidad, y 600 barras de plata, valorados en más de \$150,000, además de varios otros productos cuyo valor ascendió á \$160,000 más. El vapor salió de Guayaquil el 25 de abril é hizo escala en varios puertos sudamericanos, donde recibió carga.

La plata proviene de ricas minas en los Andes bolivianos, las cuales son explotadas por ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos y de la Gran Bretaña. Hay que llevar el mineral en mulas á Antofagasta, que es el puerto más inmediato. La falta de fundiciones hace indispensable la exportación del mineral fuera de la República, pero es éste de calidad tan superior, que puede competir, á pesar de los gastos que su transportación ocasiona, con minerales inferiores de otros países.

## BRASIL.

## COMERCIO CON LOS ESTADOS UNIDOS.

Mr. FRANK D. HILL, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Santos, en un informe dirigido al Departamento de Estado (*Advance Sheets Consular Reports*, No. 473), da un cuadro de la importación y exportación entre los Estados Unidos y el Brasil durante un período de diez años, por el cual se ve que si la exportación á los Estados Unidos ha disminuido, la cantidad que de este país se importa en el Brasil ha permanecido comparativamente estacionaria. La verdad es que en los años de 1891 y 1894 la importación de los Estados Unidos excedió á la de 1898, y también superó como en \$13,000,000 al promedio de todos los diez años. Mr. HILL dice que la causa principal de este estado de cosas es la difícil situación económica ocasionada por la baja en el precio del café. Esto no solamente ha reducido el valor de la exportación del Brasil, sino también los recursos de los comerciantes para hacer sus compras en el exterior. Es digno de observarse que si bien los Estados Unidos han conservado su posición en cuanto al tráfico con el Brasil, la Gran Bretaña ha perdido considerablemente, si se compara la situación actual de sus relaciones comerciales con lo que eran en 1893.

En el curso de su informe Mr. HILL se expresa de esta manera:

“En orden á establecer relaciones comerciales con la América del Sur, el pueblo de los Estados Unidos debería emplear los mismos méto-



dos que emplean los europeos, á saber: el establecimiento de líneas de navegación á vapor y de casas de comercio administradas por americanos. Una vez que los Estados Unidos se encuentren en las mismas condiciones que otras naciones, el resto se puede dejar á la iniciativa de nuestros comerciantes."

#### DEMANDA DE ESPEJOS.

El Cónsul de Francia en Río Janeiro, en su informe anual, últimamente publicado en París por el Gobierno francés, dice que los espejos se venden muy bien en el Brasil. Según los datos estadísticos presentados por este funcionario, la importación de espejos en el año de 1898 fué como sigue: de Alemania, 326,576 kilogramos; de Inglaterra, 49,667 kilogramos; de Francia, 35,273 kilogramos, y de Bélgica, 26,260 kilogramos. Los márcos de calidad superior vienen generalmente de Francia y los de inferior calidad de Alemania. El dorado alemán se considera muy inferior al francés, y por eso los espejos alemanes son mucho más baratos y se venden con más facilidad, aunque duran mucho menos. Los derechos de aduanas sobre pinturas, espejos y vidrio para los mismos, de menos de 15 decímetros enadrados, son de 1 franco á 1 franco 30 céntimos por kilogramo, según la condición de los márcos. Para tamaños mayores los derechos son de 50 por ciento ad valorem. Los derechos sobre márcos armados y molduras son de 2 francos por kilogramo.

#### LA COMPAÑÍA TELEGRÁFICA DEL AMAZONAS.

El periódico "The Electrical World and Engineer," correspondiente al 22 de julio, dice que, después de haber encontrado con muchas dificultades, la Compañía Telegráfica del Amazonas ha resuelto abandonar el cable en el río de las Amazonas desde Pará á Manaos. La compañía, sin embargo, está estableciendo una línea terrestre que prestará los mismos servicios que el cable. Ha emitido bonos por la suma de \$600,000, con el interés del 5 por ciento, y se asegura que el Gobierno del Brasil ha otorgado á la compañía una subvención de \$85,625 al año por el espacio de doce años.

#### FÁBRICA DE HIELO EN PARÁ.

El "Journal of Commerce," de Nueva York, en su número correspondiente al 21 de julio, dice que los Señores G. AMSINCK & Co. van á enviar á Pará todo lo necesario para el establecimiento de una fábrica de hielo que produzca 10 toneladas al día. Esta fábrica será la sexta que se haya establecido en dicha ciudad, y todas juntas pueden producir 40 toneladas diariamente. En la actualidad se embarca en Pará considerable cantidad de hielo para varias partes del Brasil. Se cree que la industria de hielo promete mucho en otros puntos de la República.

## CHILE.

## LA MINA DE AZOGUE DE PUNITAQUE.

Dice el periódico "The Mining and Engineering Review," correspondiente al mes de julio, que algunos capitalistas de San Francisco han obtenido el privilegio de explotar la famosa mina de azogue de Punitaque, cerca de Coquimbo, en la provincia del mismo nombre de la República de Chile. Esta mina está situada á 4 millas solamente del ferrocarril que une á Coquimbo con Santiago. Fué descubierta en 1785, y el virrey español de aquella época, en un informe á su Gobierno, dijo que esta mina era la joya más preciosa de la corona de España. El mineral contiene de 5 á 10 por ciento de azogue. La propiedad pertenece á la familia del finado JUAN M. LUCCO, que fué Cónsul de Chile en los Estados Unidos, y el privilegio de explotación ha sido obtenido por J. M. TINOCO, Cónsul General de Costa Rica.

## COMERCIO CON LA GRAN BRETAÑA EN 1899.

Según los datos publicados por la Cámara de Comercio de la Gran Bretaña, el tráfico de dicho país con la República de Chile durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, comparado con el del mismo período en 1898, fué como sigue, en moneda de los Estados Unidos:

## IMPORTACIÓN DE CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Trigo .....	\$24,948.25	\$365,662.77
Mineral de cobre .....	950,183.82	353,748.39
Régulo y precipitado de cobre .....	353,801.99	333,350.20
Cobre no labrado y parcialmente labrado .....	1,960,579.52	1,555,061.68
Total .....	3,280,513.58	2,809,823.04

## EXPORTACIÓN Á CHILE.

	1899.	1898.
Géneros de algodón en pieza, no blanqueados .....	\$201,571.51	\$158,256.92
Géneros de algodón en pieza, blanqueados .....	385,708.36	413,926.29
Géneros de algodón en pieza, estampados .....	292,913.74	327,914.87
Géneros de algodón en pieza, teñidos .....	287,843.36	256,929.67
Géneros de lana, en pieza .....	154,962.64	188,411.52
Géneros de estambre, en pieza .....	176,110.27	176,825.57
Alfombras .....	33,770.04	49,370.44
Hierro y acero y sus manufacturas .....	417,303.29	461,029.17
Total .....	1,953,183.21	2,032,664.45

## CUBA.

## ENTRADAS DE ADUANAS EN 1899.

Las entradas totales de las aduanas en los diferentes puertos de Cuba durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, ascendieron á \$7,084,168.51. De esta cantidad, \$6,227,098.37 fueron el producto de los derechos de importación; \$388,801.11 de los de exportación; \$14,512.81 provinieron de la capitación; \$74,898.99 de los impuestos para mejora de los puertos; \$5,857.27 de los impuestos sobre el tonelaje de cabotaje; \$229,181.89 de los impuestos sobre el tonelaje extranjero; y \$140,095.07 de otras fuentes. El número de buques pertenecientes al tráfico de cabotaje y exterior que entraron á los puertos de Cuba y salieron de ellos durante los primeros seis meses de 1899, fué como sigue: número total de buques ocupados en el tráfico de cabotaje, 4,527; total de buques extranjeros que entraron á los puertos de la isla, 2,228. Total del tonelaje de cabotaje, 729,988 toneladas. Total del tonelaje extranjero, 2,477,340 toneladas. Total de los buques de cabotaje que salieron de los diferentes puertos, 4,459. Total de los buques extranjeros que fueron despachados, 2,128. Total del tonelaje de cabotaje despachado, 746,558 toneladas. Total del tonelaje extranjero despachado, 2,352,668.

## ESTABLECIMIENTO ELÉCTRICO EN MATANZAS.

Algunos empleados de la compañía del Ferrocarril Eléctrico de Milwaukee, Racine y Kenosha han obtenido el derecho de opción por seis meses sobre terrenos en Matanzas, Cuba, valorados en \$750,000, y en los cuales, en caso de comprarlos, piensan construir un gran establecimiento de alumbrado eléctrico y un almacén de suficiente capacidad para contener los productos de todos los alrededores. También se construirá un sistema de ferrocarril eléctrico de Matanzas á los pueblos vecinos. Se espera que los carros comenzarán á correr el 1º de enero de 1900.

## EXPLOTACIÓN DE NUEVAS MINAS DE HIERRO.

Dice el "Engineer and Mining Journal," en su número del 15 de julio, que la "Cuban Steel Ore Company" se ha organizado en Filadelfia. Según el prospecto de dicha compañía, se propone explotar dos grupos de minas de hierro que quedan á 45 millas al oeste de Santiago, en la provincia del mismo nombre, y construir un ferrocarril como de 10 millas de largo, que una las minas con la bahía de Chivirico, así como con los muelles, diques, etc. Se dice que estas minas cubren como 2,100 acres y que se extraerán de ellas, en el trascurso de corto tiempo, más de 20,000 de toneladas de mineral. Este mineral es considerado como Bessemer de calidad superior.

## ECUADOR.

## CAMPO PARA INSTALACIONES ELÉCTRICAS.

Contestando, con fecha 12 de junio de 1899, á las preguntas que le ha dirigido una casa de Nueva York, Mr. PERRY M. DELEON, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Guayaquil, dice que no se usa en aquella ciudad la electricidad como fuerza motriz, y que hay poca demanda por artículos eléctricos. Opina el Cónsul, sin embargo, que hay excelente campo para el establecimiento de luz eléctrica y de ferrocarriles urbanos, también eléctricos. Dice que la ciudad ha progresado mucho; que tiene una población de cerca de 50,000 habitantes, y que, con la construcción del proyectado ferrocarril á Quito, tiene que aumentar en población y en riqueza. En la actualidad, el alumbrado que se usa es de gas de muy inferior calidad, y le cuesta á la municipalidad considerables sumas anualmente. Un sistema de tranvías atraviesa casi toda la ciudad, pero la tracción, que se hace por medio de mulas, es costosa.

Se dice que la condición económica de la ciudad es excelente. Las acciones de la compañía de ferrocarril urbano se cotizaban á 50 centavos el peso en 1896, pero existe ahora una reserva en caja igual á 50 por ciento del capital. Los dividendos declarados son de 15 por ciento al año, y en la época en que Mr. DELEON escribió, las acciones valían \$150 cada una. El combustible es escaso y costoso, pero hay cerea de la ciudad agua en abundancia que se puede usar como fuerza motriz. En 1896 se estaba estableciendo un servicio de luz eléctrica, pero la gran inecendio que destruyó 83 manzanas en la mejor parte de la población, incluyendo dichas instalaciones, dió por resultado el abandono de la empresa. El distrito destruido está casi completamente construido con edificios de mejor condición, y cree Mr. DELEON que el momento es oportuno para el establecimiento de un sistema en que se combinen los trasportes con el alumbrado.

## EL TRÁFICO DE MAQUINARIA.

En contestación á una pregunta que le dirigió una casa de Massachusetts, el Cónsul-General DE LEÓN escribe de Guayaquil que no hay gran tráfico de maquinaria en el Ecuador. Mr. MANN, natural de Escocia, tiene talleres en Guayaquil. Hay también unas pocas fábricas, refineries de azúcar y otros establecimientos que usan fuerza de vapor en la ciudad y en la provincia. Se dice que la compañía denominada "Ecuador Development Company," cuya dirección es 33 Wall street, New York City, está contratando varias locomotoras y otros enseres para el ferrocarril de Guayaquil y Quito. La mayor parte de dichos enseres se pide á los Estados Unidos directamente ó por medio de agentes. W. R. GRACE & Co., FLINT, EDDY & Co. y otras casas comerciales, tienen

agentes en Guayaquil. No existen depósitos de maquinaria o accesorios dignos de mencionarse, y los pedidos se hacen por medio de catálogos. A veces se conceden seis meses de crédito, pero la regla es que se pague al contado por dichos efectos. Los importadores generalmente exigen dinero contante ó una garantía de primera clase de la parte de sus parroquianos.

Según lo manifestado por el Cónsul, la importación de maquinaria de vapor y accesorios de los Estados Unidos, en 1898, ascendió á cerca de \$40,000 oro, y como \$20,000 fué el valor de lo que se importó de Europa en esta clase de artículos. Opina el Señor DE LEÓN que las dos cosas que se necesitan para aumentar el tráfico de los Estados Unidos con la costa occidental de la América del Sur, son agentes comerciales competentes y fletes moderados. Dice, por ejemplo, que el ferrocarril de Panamá cobra 47½ centavos por pie cúbico, mientras que GRACE & Co. y FLINT, EDDY & Co., cobran de 25 á 30 centavos por pie cúbico, por la vía del estrecho de Magallanes. El Cónsul termina su informe con estas palabras: "Un canal por el istmo es una necesidad vital, y solamente cuando esté construido podrán los Estados Unidos tener en esta costa el tráfico de que deberían disfrutar."

## MÉXICO.

### SINOPSIS DE LA LEY SOBRE FERROCARRILES DE 1899.

El Departamento de Estado de los Estados ha recibido del General POWELL CLAYTON, Embajador americano en México, copia y traducción de la nueva ley sobre ferrocarriles de la República, promulgada el 29 de abril de 1899. Esta ley es bastante extensa y está calculada para abrazar todo lo que se relaciona con el otorgamiento de concesiones. Refiriéndose á esta nueva disposición del Gobierno mexicano, el Embajador dice que hasta ahora cada concesión ha sido objeto de una ley especial. En lo futuro, la ley general se aplicará á todas las nuevas concesiones, así como á las que antes se habían otorgado y que no están en desacuerdo con las disposiciones de la presente ley. La nueva ley hace más difícil el obtener concesiones acompañadas de subvenciones, y acentúa el dominio que el Gobierno ejerce sobre las compañías.

Los ferrocarriles son divididos en dos clases, los de interés general y los de interés local. Solamente los primeros pueden recibir subvenciones. Entre los de interés general, la ley señala algunos de suma importancia que aun están por construirse, tales como las líneas que unirán los ferrocarriles centrales con el océano Pacífico, el istmo de Tehuantepec, Yucatán y Guatemala. Las líneas de primera importancia pueden recibir subvenciones. Otras líneas proyectadas pueden ser declaradas de primera importancia, si el Gabinete lo aconsejare así. Antiguamente

la inspección ejercida por el Gobierno era simplemente técnica, y se limitaba á mantener la regularidad en el tráfico y á velar por la seguridad de los pasajeros. En lo futuro, los inspectores nombrados por el Gobierno podrán pedir cuenta de las operaciones económicas de las compañías, sus emisiones de acciones y obligaciones y la amortización de éstas. Tendrán derecho de examinar los libros y todos los papeles de la compañía. Esta inspección se ejerce también sobre la formación de nuevas compañías. En lo de adelante, cada compañía debe someter primero al Gobierno un cálculo del trabajo que deberá ejecutarse en el proyectado ferrocarril, y la cantidad de acciones que han de emitirse será determinada de conformidad con la obra proyectada. El objeto que se tiene en mira es impedir la formación de compañías con un capital social desproporcionado á la empresa. Esta ley prohíbe, bajo pena de caducidad, el vender ó hipotecar las concesiones á un Gobierno extranjero. Cualesquier acciones, bonos ú obligaciones que compre un gobierno extranjero, caducarán á favor del Gobierno mexicano. Las propiedades pertenecientes á los ferrocarriles en México estarán sujetas á las disposiciones del Código Civil del Distrito Federal, excepto en casos determinados por algunas leyes especiales.

Quedan abolidas las leyes de 25 de diciembre de 1877 y de 16 de diciembre de 1881, con excepción del artículo que se refiere á la adquisición de líneas de telégrafo y teléfono por el Gobierno.

Para la conveniencia de las personas que deseen conocer el texto de la ley, tanto el original en español como una traducción al inglés, se han depositado en los archivos de la Oficina de Comercio Extranjero del Departamento de Estado en Washington.

## NICARAGUA.

### EMBARQUES DE MINERALES DE ORO Y DE PLATA.

El periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal," correspondiente al 15 de julio, publica una comunicación de su corresponsal en Nicaragua, en la cual se dice que los Señores ALLEN & FULKS han hecho el primer embarque de mineral de su mina El Mico, con destino á la Omaha and Grant Smelting Company, de Denver, Colorado. El ensayo de este cargamento, que consta de 16 sacos, ha dado por resultado 12.05 onzas de oro y 13.6 de plata por tonelada. Los Señores ALLEN & FULKS esperan hacer pronto otro embarque mayor.

## SANTO DOMINGO (REPÚBLICA DOMINICANA).

### ASESINATO DEL PRESIDENTE HEUREAUX.

El General ULISES HEUREAUX, Presidente de la República Dominicana, fué asesinado en Moca, pueblo que queda como á 40 millas al sur de Puerto Plata, el 26 de julio del año en curso. El Presidente se

disponía á salir para Santiago cuando fué muerto, mientras se encontraba en el corredor de una casa de la calle de Colón conversando con varios amigos. Una bala le hirió en el corazón, causándole muerte instantánea, y otra bala mató á un anciano que estaba á su lado. El hecho se verificó tan rápidamente, que las personas allí presentes no tuvieron tiempo de impedirlo. El Vicepresidente de la República, General WENCESLAO FIUERO, tomó inmediatamente posesión de la presidencia.

ULISES HEUREAUX nació en Puerto Plata, en la costa occidental de Santo Domingo, en 1846. Entró al servicio militar como soldado raso cuando tenía 16 años de edad, pero pronto fué nombrado Comandante del Distrito de Puerto Plata. Peleó en la guerra contra España de 1868 á 1874; fué desterrado dos veces por causas políticas, y durante dos años permaneció retirado á la vida privada. En 1878 sofocó una rebelión del elemento español; fué herido varias veces y estuvo á punto de ser asesinado. En 1882 fué electo Presidente de la República para suceder á FERNANDO A. MERINO, y fué reelecto cuatro veces, la última en 1898. En 1894 hizo fracasar una conspiración para asesinarle, al frente de la cual se hallaba un individuo llamado BOBADILLA.

#### DERECHO 3 PAGADEROS EN ORO.

El Departamento de Estado ha recibido un informe de Mr. CAMPBELL L. MAXWELL, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Santo Domingo, bajo fecha 24 de junio de 1899, en el que avisa que el Congreso dominicano ha emitido una ley ordenando que los derechos de importación se paguen en oro americano, ó en la moneda del país, de la cual seis pesos corresponden á un peso en oro. Antes de esta fecha, un peso en oro correspondía á dos pesos en moneda dominicana. La mencionada ley debía comenzar á tener efecto el 1° de julio de 1899.

### ESTADOS UNIDOS.

#### COMERCIO CON LA AMÉRICA LATINA.

##### RELACIÓN DE LAS IMPORTACIONES Y EXPORTACIONES.

En la página 175 aparece la última relación del comercio entre los Estados Unidos y la América latina, tomada de la compilación hecha por la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos, cuyo jefe es Mr. O. P. AUSTIN. Estos datos se refieren al valor del comercio arriba mencionado. La estadística corresponde al mes de junio de 1899, corregida en julio 27 del mismo año, comparada con la del período correspondiente del año anterior, y también comprende los datos referentes á los nueve meses que terminaron en junio de 1899, comparados con igual período de 1898. Debe explicarse que las estadísticas de las importaciones y exportaciones de las diversas

aduanas referentes á un mes cualquiera no se reciben en el Ministerio de Hacienda hasta el 20 del próximo mes, necesitándose algún tiempo para su compilación é impresión, de suerte que los datos estadísticos correspondientes al mes de junio, por ejemplo, no se publican sino en julio.

### IMPORTACIÓN Y EXPORTACIÓN DURANTE EL AÑO QUE TERMINÓ EL 30 DE JUNIO DE 1899.

Los cuadros estadísticos de la importación y exportación de los Estados Unidos en el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fueron terminados, y de ellos dió al público el 27 de julio un resumen el Jefe de la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda. Las cifras contenidas en este resumen, comparadas con las del año anterior, ofrecen detalles interesantes. El valor de la importación aumentó en más de \$81,000,000, mientras que el de la exportación disminuyó en más de \$4,000,000. En cuanto á las clases de artículos importados en 1898 y 1899, la división es como sigue:

#### IMPORTACIÓN.

	1898.	1899.
Substancias alimenticias y animales vivos.....	\$181,205,834	\$211,869,918
Artículos en estado crudo para el uso de las industrias nacionales.....	201,428,375	221,998,377
Artículos en todo ó parte manufacturados para el uso de las industrias y artes mecánicas.....	58,581,559	60,712,518
Artículos manufacturados listos para ser usados.....	97,382,404	108,621,405
Artículos de lujo.....	77,448,472	93,914,635
Importación total.....	616,049,654	697,116,854
Por ciento libre de derechos.....	47.3	43.07
Derechos recaudados.....	\$149,819,594	\$206,507,812
Mercancías extranjeras en almacenes.....	\$37,726,964	\$35,956,021

#### EXPORTACIÓN.

Productos agrícolas.....	\$853,683,570	\$784,999,009
Productos de las manufacturas.....	290,697,354	338,667,794
Productos de las minas.....	19,410,707	28,832,517
Productos de la pesca.....	5,435,483	6,025,446
Productos varios.....	3,164,628	3,281,134
Exportación total de productos nacionales.....	1,210,291,913	1,204,123,134
Artículos extranjeros reexportados.....	21,190,417	23,082,285
Exportación total.....	1,231,482,330	1,227,205,419

La importación y exportación, divididas en grandes secciones, fueron como sigue:

	Importación.		Exportación.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Europa.....	\$305,933,691	\$353,885,064	\$973,806,245	\$936,781,169
América del Norte.....	91,376,807	112,133,871	139,627,841	157,931,409
América del Sur.....	92,091,694	86,576,020	33,821,791	35,660,932
Asia.....	92,594,593	107,081,421	44,707,791	48,360,161
Oceania.....	26,859,230	26,997,508	22,003,022	29,874,993
África.....	7,193,639	10,442,970	17,515,730	18,594,424



En cuanto á los países, la importación y exportación á los de la América del Norte fueron como sigue:

	Importación.		Exportación.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
América Inglesa.....	\$32,242,601	\$31,586,332	\$84,881,819	\$89,573,609
Islas Bermudas.....	459,282	494,812	986,915	1,065,388
Antillas Inglesas.....	10,632,187	14,150,482	8,586,240	8,751,817
Belize (British Honduras).....	171,920	198,203	576,111	499,839
Total de fuentes británicas.....	43,505,990	46,429,829	94,839,085	99,890,653
México.....	19,004,863	22,994,091	21,206,930	25,480,281
Costa Rica.....	2,732,426	3,581,899	1,529,161	1,241,191
Guatemala.....	1,854,303	2,111,264	1,291,714	1,102,779
Honduras.....	784,741	911,849	752,293	831,998
Nicaragua.....	1,095,865	1,514,030	1,049,505	1,186,950
Salvador.....	799,145	1,085,703	796,575	625,414
Haití.....	876,582	826,426	2,968,579	2,455,966
Santo Domingo.....	2,382,139	3,125,695	1,151,258	1,104,513
Cuba.....	15,232,477	25,411,410	9,561,656	18,615,707
Puerto Rico.....	2,414,356	3,179,827	1,505,946	2,085,818
Antillas Dancesas.....	327,739	599,328	707,622	498,066
Antillas Holandesas.....	174,243	246,902	544,483	471,435
Antillas Francesas.....	30,888	28,735	1,617,130	1,542,981
Miquelon, Langley, etc.....	61,030	86,283	205,065	194,624

La importación de los diferentes países de la América del Sur y la exportación á los mismos fueron como sigue:

	Importación.		Exportación.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
República Argentina.....	\$5,915,879	\$5,112,561	\$6,429,070	\$9,563,510
Bolivia.....			20,675	31,298
Brasil.....	61,750,369	57,875,747	13,317,036	12,240,036
Chilo.....	3,736,307	2,931,089	2,351,727	2,107,124
Colombia.....	5,183,604	5,126,731	3,277,257	3,042,094
Ecuador.....	765,590	1,054,653	855,193	882,621
Guayana Inglesa.....	3,060,968	3,500,207	1,747,375	1,749,545
Guayana Holandesa.....	1,457,135	1,651,069	408,414	443,757
Guayana Francesa.....	12,551	37,929	150,643	170,090
Paraguay.....			169	10,751
Perú.....	714,247	1,496,978	1,302,695	1,325,650
Uruguay.....	1,772,480	1,281,169	1,214,248	1,242,822
Venezuela.....	7,722,564	6,507,847	2,746,261	2,851,634

En 1898 se exportaron á las Islas Falkland mercancías por valor de \$1,010, pero en 1899 no hubo con dichas islas tráfico de exportación ó importación.

#### ESTADÍSTICA FERROCARRILERA.

Los intereses ferrocarrileros de los Estados Unidos son tan vastos, representan un capital tan inmenso y ejercen una influencia tan grande en el comercio, no sólo de este país sino del mundo entero, que merecen se les consagre especial atención.

El 15 de julio de este año la Comisión de Comercio entre los Estados (Interstate Commerce Commission) publicó su informe relativo á los ferrocarriles de los Estados Unidos para el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1898. A esa fecha había 186,396 millas ferrocarrileras abiertas al tráfico. El capital invertido, sin incluir el pasivo, ascendía á \$10-

\$18,554,031; esta cantidad representaba un valor por milla de \$60,343. El capital en acciones era de \$5,388,268,231, de cuya suma \$1,118,996,607 era en acciones privilegiadas. La cantidad correspondiente á la deuda consolidada era de \$5,430,285,710, comprendiendo hipotecas y obligaciones menores. Solamente 29.61 por ciento de las acciones pagaban dividendos, y 11.34 de los bonos hipotecarios no pagaron intereses. Las entradas totales de todos los ferrocarriles en una extensión de 184,648 millas, fueron de \$1,247,325,621, lo cual es un aumento de \$125,235,848 sobre el año fiscal que terminó el 30 de junio de 1897. Los gastos de la administración durante el mismo período fueron de \$817,973,276, lo cual representa un aumento de \$65,448,512, comparado con el año precedente.

Las entradas totales se dividen como sigue:

Pasajeros, \$266,970,490; aumento, \$15,834,563; correos, \$34,608,352; aumento, \$853,886; expreso, \$25,908,075; aumento, \$1,007,009; otras entradas por servicio de pasajeros, \$7,224,000; carga, \$876,727,719; aumento, \$103,878,405; otras entradas por servicio de carga, \$4,683,205; aumento, \$473,548; otras entradas no especificadas, \$31,203,780.

Los gastos de administración durante el año fueron como sigue: mantenimiento de las vías férreas y construcciones, \$173,314,958; aumento, comparado con el año precedente, \$13,880,555. Mantenimiento de los equipos, \$142,624,862; aumento, \$19,682,504. Transportes, \$464,674,276; aumento, \$32,148,414. Gastos en general, \$36,476,686; disminución, \$4,583. Las entradas totales fueron, por término medio, \$6,755 por milla, y los gastos, \$4,430 por milla. Estas cantidades exceden á las correspondientes para el año de 1897 en \$633 y \$324, respectivamente.

El número de pasajeros durante el año fué de 501,066,681, lo que muestra un aumento, comparado con el año que terminó el 30 de junio de 1897, de \$11,621,483. El número de toneladas de carga durante el año fué de 879,006,307, ó sea un aumento de 137,300,361. El número de toneladas de carga que se llevó por milla fué de 617,810, lo cual es un aumento de 93,731 sobre el año de 1897.

El número de personas empleadas por los ferrocarriles de los Estados Unidos, según el informe de 30 de junio de 1898, era de 874,558, lo que equivale á 474 empleados por cada cien millas. De estos empleados, 1,958 fueron muertos y 31,761 estropeados durante el año. El número de pasajeros que murieron en el año fué de 221, y los estropeados ascendieron á 2,945. Las cifras correspondientes al año anterior fueron 222 muertos y 2,795 estropeados. A consecuencia de colisiones y descarrilamientos, murieron 72 pasajeros y fueron dañados 1,134. El número total de personas muertas en las vías férreas, sin contar empleados ó pasajeros, fué de 4,680, y el de las estropeadas ascendió á 6,176. De cada 2,267,270 pasajeros, uno fué muerto, y de cada 170.141 uno fué estropeado. De cada 447 empleados, uno fué muerto, y de cada 28. uno fué estropeado.

El periódico "The Railroad Gazette" de Nueva York, ha hecho un examen preliminar relativo á las nuevas construcciones de ferrocarriles

en los Estados Unidos durante los primeros seis meses de 1899, y en encuentra que a pesar de la actividad que se ha desarrollado en esta materia, el número total de millas actualmente en construcción no es enteramente satisfactorio. Dicho total es de 1,181.45 millas, número que se elevará cuando se obtengan los datos más recientes. Esto muestra un aumento de cerca de 90 millas sobre las cifras preliminares del año pasado; pero juzgando por las millas que están en construcción, las operaciones son más extensas que el año anterior, y es seguro que el total mostrará un aumento considerable sobre las 3,300 millas construidas en 1898. The "Gazette" dice, por ejemplo, que de las 247 millas que tiene en construcción el ferrocarril Chicago and Northwestern, solamente 4 millas fueron incluidas en el informe correspondiente á la primera mitad del año. La segunda mitad del año es la época de las construcciones ferrocarrileras, y en el último año se construyeron en esos seis meses como dos millas por cada milla construida antes del 30 de junio.

El mismo periódico, correspondiente al 2 de junio, contiene un cuadro en el que se ponen de manifiesto las millas de ferrocarril que han estado abiertas al tráfico en los diferentes países, de 1893 á 1897. Según estos datos, había en el mundo 454,730 millas de caminos de hierro en 1897, y el aumento desde 1893 hasta el año que se acaba de mencionar fué de 37,458 millas, ó sea 8.9 por ciento. La América, incluyendo la del Norte y la del Sur, así como las Antillas, tenía algo más de la mitad del total, 236,218 millas. Tomando á cada país por separado, los Estados Unidos poseían con mucho el mayor número de millas, pero el aumento en este país, de 1893 á 1897, fué solamente de 3.6 por ciento, ó sean 6,559 millas. Viene en segunda entre las grandes naciones, el imperio alemán con 29,880 millas, y á continuación en el orden en que se expresan los países siguientes: Rusia, Francia, Inglaterra ó Irlanda, la India, Austria-Hungría, la América Inglesa, Italia y la República Argentina.

En este cuadro, México figura con 7,384 millas de ferrocarril, la América Central, con 644; las Antillas, exceptuando á Cuba y Santo Domingo, con 582; Santo Domingo, con 117; Cuba, con 1,104; los Estados Unidos de Colombia, con 346; Venezuela, con 633; el Brasil, con 8,657; la República Argentina, con 9,422; el Uruguay, con 1,118; el Paraguay, con 157; Chile, con 2,662; el Perú, con 1,035; Bolivia, con 621; el Ecuador, con 186, y la Guayana británica con 22.

En proporción á la extensión del país, Bélgica es la nación que tiene mayor millas de ferrocarril, 32.2 por cada cien millas cuadradas del territorio, y á continuación vienen la Gran Bretaña ó Irlanda con 17.55 millas por una extensión igual.

#### CONDICIÓN DE LAS PRINCIPALES COSECHAS EL 1º DE AGOSTO DE 1899.

Según el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Departamento de Agricultura, el promedio de la condición de las principales cosechas era, el 1º del mes de agosto, como sigue: Maiz, 89.9; trigo de prima-

vera, 83.6; avena, 90.8; cebada, 93.6; centeno de primavera, 89; trigo sarraceno, 93.2; patatas, 93; heno (*timothy hay*), 86.7.

La condición de la cosecha de maíz en aquella fecha era 2.9 puntos más alta que en la fecha correspondiente de 1898, y 3.2 puntos arriba del promedio medio en el mes de agosto durante los últimos diez años.

El promedio de la condición del trigo de primavera era 12.9 pntos más bajo que el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 0.3 puntos menos que el promedio durante diez años. El promedio de la avena era 6.6 puntos más alto que el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 8.3 puntos sobre el promedio medio por diez años. La cantidad de la cosecha de avena del año pasado, que todavía permanece en poder de los agricultores, se calculo en 6.9 por ciento, lo cual es el promedio usual. La condición de la cebada fué 14.3 puntos más alta que en el mismo período en 1898, y 8.6 puntos sobre el promedio medio en el mes de agosto durante los últimos diez años. El promedio de la condición del centeno de primavera era 1.5 puntos sobre el promedio medio durante diez años, pero era 4.7 puntos más bajo que el promedio en el mes de agosto de 1898.

Los informes preliminares recibidos indican un aumento de siete-décimos de 1 por ciento en cada acre sembrado de trigo sarraceno, en comparación con el año anterior. El promedio de la condición fué 6 puntos más alto que el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 2.2 puntos sobre el término medio por diez años.

El promedio en la cosecha de patatas durante el mes fué de 9.1 pntos sobre el 1° de agosto de 1898, y 6.9 puntos sobre el promedio medio en el mes de agosto durante diez años. En cuanto á la cosecha de batatas, las indicaciones son que se mantendrá en el término medio.

Con respecto al heno, los informes recibidos parecen indicar una reducción de 3.4 por ciento en el total. La condición de la clase conocida con el nombre de *timothy hay* era 12.6 puntos menos que en 1898.

#### SOLICITUDES DE PATENTES EN 1898-99.

Por el informe anual del Honorable CHARLES H. DUELL, Comisionado de Patentes de los Estados Unidos, se ve que durante el año pasado se recibieron 35,352 solicitudes de patentes, de las cuales 2,292 fueron para modelos, 91 para renovaciones de patentes, 1,861 para marcas de fábrica, 612 para etiquetas, 112 para impresiones, y 1,610 para registros de peticiones (*carcats*), lo cual da un gran total de 41,930 solicitudes de toda clase. Se emitieron 25,406 patentes, todas las cuales, menos unas 2,000, fueron privilegios de invención. Durante el año expiraron 16,670 patentes; más de 4,000 fueron retenidas por falta de pago de los derechos, y más de 8,000 solicitudes fueron otorgadas, pendiente el pago de los derechos finales.

#### PRODUCTOS MINERALES Y METALÚRGICOS EN 1898.

El periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal," correspondiente al mes de julio, contiene un resumen de los datos estadísticos sobre la

producción mineral y metalúrgica de los Estados Unidos en 1898. Las cifras allí presentadas muestran que el valor total de estos productos en el año en referencia, fué de \$709,816,750, contra \$648,804,899 en 1897. La producción comprende \$65,082,430 en oro, y 58,763,127 onzas de plata. La cantidad de carbón de piedra producida fué de 218,106,519 toneladas de 2,000 libras, ó sea un aumento de 173,000 toneladas sobre el año anterior. La cantidad de hierro en lingotes fué de 11,773,934 toneladas, que es la mayor que en un solo año se ha producido en el país. La producción de cobre, acerca de la cual se dan informes en otro parte del BOLETÍN MENSUAL, es la mayor de que existe recuerdo, y fué mucho más que la mitad del producto total del mundo entero. Otros productos importantes fueron los siguientes: plomo, 228,475 toneladas de 2,000 libras; zinc, 114,104 toneladas; 30,493 frascos de azogue, y 51,774,465 barriles de petróleo. La variedad de productos de menor importancia se deja ver por el hecho de que la tabla contiene 103 artículos diferentes. Además de los minerales del país, se refinaron y prepararon para el mercado en este país, extraídas de minerales y de barras que se importaron, las siguientes cantidades: oro, \$22,024,960; plata, 39,781,000 onzas; cobre, 36,055,352 libras; plomo, 89,209 toneladas, y níquel, 7,127,784 libras.

#### IMPORTACIÓN DE CAFÉ EN 1898 Y 1899.

La Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos da el total de las importaciones y reexportaciones de café, así como la importación neta durante los años económicos de 1898 y 1899. He aquí las cifras en referencia:

Importación en 1898, 870,514,455 libras; importación en 1899, 831,820,341 libras; reexportación en 1898, 18,823,371 libras; reexportación en 1899, 30,070,195 libras; importación neta en 1898, 851,690,084 libras; en 1899, 801,750,145 libras; valor total en 1898, \$62,674,181; en 1899, \$52,369,360; valor por libra en 1898, 7.3 centavos; en 1899, 6.5 centavos. Las importaciones fueron de los países siguientes:

	1898.		1899.	
	Cantidad.	Valor.	Cantidad.	Valor.
	<i>Libras.</i>		<i>Libras.</i>	
Gran Bretaña.....	1,796,985	\$254,206	1,465,794	\$494,553
Francia.....	859,419	62,173	92,319	8,255
Alemania.....	7,334,801	538,717	2,138,780	209,399
Holanda.....	2,409,967	361,095	3,655,289	404,137
Otros países de Europa.....	2,427,834	139,902	390,060	22,041
América Central.....	35,862,385	4,469,183	45,298,890	5,958,711
México.....	34,511,168	3,599,392	27,324,827	2,686,248
Las Antillas.....	6,412,209	673,800	11,791,291	745,622
Brasil.....	661,008,372	40,956,963	628,417,812	35,250,010
Otros países de la América del Sur.....	90,113,241	9,276,212	90,332,351	7,217,590
La India.....	21,311,159	3,603,055	19,498,299	1,502,493
Otros países de Asia y Oceania.....	4,947,018	918,104	5,290,163	840,736
África.....	42,305	6,040	642,003	104,971
Otros países.....	1,477,592	221,789	1,572,041	216,880
Total.....	870,514,455	65,067,631	831,820,341	55,274,646

La cantidad importada en 1897 fué de 737,645,670 libras, valoradas en \$81,544,384, ó sea algo más de 11 centavos por libra. La tabla anterior muestra que más de el 75.5 por ciento de toda la cantidad recibida en 1899 vino del Brasil, y 86.25 por ciento de la América del Sur, tomada en grupo. Se comprende, desde luego, que solamente una disminución en la cosecha del Brasil podría elevar el precio del café.

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE TE.

Durante la primera semana del mes de julio, el Ministerio de Agricultura en Washington fué informado de que se había puesto en venta en el mercado de Nueva York, te producido en los Estados Unidos, cosa que no había ocurrido antes en la historia del país. Fué producido este te en una plantación perteneciente al Dr. CARLOS U. SHEPARD, en Pinelhurst, á 20 millas de Charleston, S. C., donde se han estado haciendo experimentos desde hace 20 años en el cultivo del te. Esta plantación fué establecida primitivamente por el Ministerio de Agricultura, y ha recibido siempre la ayuda del Gobierno. En los últimos años el Dr. SHEPARD obtuvo una pequeña cosecha, toda la cual fué distribuida en la plantación misma entre sus parroquianos. Sin embargo, la última cosecha fué demasiado grande para esa clase de tráfico, y se remitió una parte de ella á Nueva York, donde fué vendida al por mayor y después al por menor. Se da á este artículo el nombre de te americano, y se vende á precios más altos que las mejores clases del Japón y de la China.

Aunque los productores japoneses y chinos gozan de las ventajas que les dan el clima y la experiencia, el Dr. SHEPARD puede aprovechar algunas condiciones que existen solamente en los Estados Unidos, y las cuales le colocan en situación igual á la de sus competidores extranjeros. Los productores japoneses y chinos se ven obligados á hacer uso de métodos muy costosos para empacar el te á fin de exportarlo; tienen que cubrirlo con hoja de estaño, con varias capas de tejido de juncos y otros artículos en orden á conservar el gusto natural y otras calidades de la planta. Se sabe que un viaje por mar es muy nocivo por el te, pues lo priva de su sabor natural y lo daña de otras maneras. El te que el Dr. SHEPARD cultiva no tiene que luchar con estas desventajas y su calidad no sufre en manera alguna.

Hace algunos años, el Ministerio de Agricultura distribuyó varias plantas de te en algunos de los estados del sur, con el objeto de estimular el cultivo de este artículo. Con excepción del Dr. SHEPARD, nadie se dedicó seriamente á este cultivo. Él, sin embargo, lo inició en pequeña escala, y con el apoyo atrás mencionado, logró establecer una industria que ahora le produce buenas ganancias. Entre los problemas que había que resolver, era el de saber si se podía cultivar el te en un distrito donde caían anualmente 56 pulgadas de agua, pues en Asia se sostiene que la planta necesita de 80 á 100 pulgadas de agua por año, y que mientras más llueve al principio del año el resultado es mejor.

En alguno de los distritos de Asia mejor adecuados para la producción de te, caen 120 pulgadas de agua al año. El Dr. SHEPARD ha descubierto además que, según autoridades en la materia, la temperatura no debe nunca bajar de 40° Fahrenheit. En Pinehurst la temperatura suele bajar á 15° Fahrenheit en el invierno. A fin de aprovechar las lluvias y distribuir proporcionalmente las aguas, los terrenos fueron designados, arados y removidos hasta una profundidad de 18 pulgadas, y se empleó un sistema general de cultivo superficial á fin de conservar la humedad del suelo, humedad correspondiente á 10 ó 15 pulgadas de lluvia.

La cuestión del trabajo fué muy seria, y se demostró que costaría ocho veces más en South Carolina que en Asia cultivar una libra de te. Se comprendió que era cosa fuera de cuestión el mantener un gran número de trabajadores para cortar de tiempo en tiempo las hojas que llegaban á madurez. Con este motivo, el Dr. SHEPARD adoptó una especie de plan de kindergarten é hizo que muchos niños de color asistieran gratis á su escuela. Les enseñaba á leer y escribir, en pago de lo cual los niños debían cosechar el te, recibiendo, además de su enseñanza, suficiente dinero para pagar por su alimentación y vestido. Algunos de estos niños se han hecho muy diestros en el trabajo, aunque ninguno ha llegado á tener la habilidad de los peritos de China y el Japón.

Mr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, del Ministerio de Agricultura, persona entendida en horticultura, visitó últimamente la mencionada plantación de te, y al presentar su informe acerca de ella, dijo lo siguiente sobre el porvenir de la industria de te en los Estados Unidos:

“Nadie debe esperar buen éxito en este cultivo, si no cuenta con la experiencia necesaria en cuanto se relaciona con todos sus detalles. Es un trabajo especial y requiere estudios especiales, que deben hacerse en el terreno mismo donde se ejecutan todas las operaciones. El estudiante debe comenzar por el principio, esto es, desde que se siembra la semilla, y continuar su estudio hasta el momento en que se empaca la hoja. La cuestión del trabajo se presenta siempre, y es evidente que para que la industria sea lucrativa debe producirse un artículo de superior calidad. En orden á obtener este último, se necesita más trabajo en escoger las hojas que cuando se obtiene un te de inferior calidad, en el cual van mezcladas hojas menos tiernas y más duras.”

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE COBRE EN LOS AÑOS DE 1898 Y 1899.

La producción de cobre en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1898 fué la mayor de que hay en recuerdo. Según los datos obtenidos de los productores, el total ascendió á 239,241 toneladas, ó sean 535,900,232 libras de cobre fino. Esto fué un aumento sobre 1897 de 15,415 toneladas, ó sean 34,529,937 libras, esto es, 6.8 por ciento. El aumento fué casi en la misma proporción que en 1897 sobre 1896, pero fué mucho menos que en 1896 sobre el año precedente. Se importaron en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1898 mas 38,922,552 libras de cobre.

El metal viene principalmente en barras de México y de la Columbia Británica para ser refinado en este país. La exportación en el mismo año ascendió á 133,822.68 toneladas, ó sean 290,765.054 libras, esto es, como 55 por ciento de la producción total. El consumo, según los datos obtenidos, fué casi el mismo que en el año anterior.

Los datos estadísticos sobre el metal en referencia, durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio de 1899, según han sido compilados por el "New York Metal Exchange," son como sigue: producción nacional, según los informes de los productores, 124,487 toneladas (278,850,880 libras); importaciones del exterior, 13,908 toneladas (3,115,392 libras); total, 138,395 toneladas (309,966,272 libras). Las remesas durante los seis meses que terminaron el 30 de junio, calculadas en toneladas de 2,240 libras, fueron las siguientes: exportación á Europa, 51,723; exportación á las posesiones inglesas de Norte América, 220; exportación á México, 50. Mineral conteniendo 25 por ciento de sulfato de cobre se exportó en cantidad de 7,640 toneladas, ó sean 1,910 toneladas de metal puro. La exportación total fué de 53,963. El consumo en el país ascendió á 72,000 toneladas; las remesas totales fueron de 125,963 toneladas. La producción nacional muestra un aumento de 4,000 toneladas, en comparación con el mismo período de 1898, pero si se compara con la última mitad de dicho año, el aumento es de 10,702 toneladas. La cantidad de mineral conteniendo sulfato de cobre, que se exportó, muestra un aumento de 820 toneladas, en comparación con el mismo período de 1898. Las remesas para el consumo interior fueron muy fuertes durante el segundo trimestre de este año. En el término de seis meses, el aumento sobre el mismo período en 1898 fué de 18,000 toneladas, pero si se compara con la segunda mitad del año, dicho aumento es de 12,000 toneladas. El exceso de la oferta sobre la demanda fué de 12,492 toneladas, la mayor parte de cuya cantidad fué enviada á nuevos establecimientos de refinación.

Uno de los cargamentos de cobre más curiosos que han llegado á los Estados Unidos, vino por el vapor *Ceric* al puerto de Nueva York el 25 de julio de 1899. Consistía en 9,999 sacos, ó sean 250 toneladas de monedas de cobre de la India, consignadas á la Oxford Copper Company. Estas monedas van á ser derretidas, y se dice que valen más en la forma de metal en barra que en la de moneda. Cuando el cobre estaba á 10 centavos la libra, se obtenía una ganancia acuniándolo para el Gobierno de la India, pero el cambio en el precio de dicho metal ha alterado esas condiciones. Se asegura que monedas de cobre de la China y probablemente de otros países, podrían traerse para fundirlas, y que esto reportaría considerables ganancias.

#### DATOS ESTADÍSTICOS SOBRE INMIGRACIÓN.

La inmigración en los Estados Unidos, durante el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1899, fué mayor que en cualquier otro año desde 1896, y el número de inmigrantes excedió en 80,000 á los que llegaron en 1898. Mr. TERRENCE V. POWDERLY, Comisionado de la



Inmigración en los Estados Unidos, terminó la compilación de los datos correspondientes á cada puerto del país el 11 de julio, y encontró que 311,715 inmigrantes habían desembarcado durante los doce meses. De estos, 195,277 fueron personas del sexo masculino, y 116,458 del sexo femenino. En 1898 el gran total fué de 229,999; en 1897, de 230,832; en 1896, de 343,267; en 1895, de 258,536, y en 1894, de 285,631. La inmigración en los últimos dos meses de mayo y junio fué notablemente grande, pues en el primero de dichos meses ascendió á 51,154 personas, y en el segundo á 40,033. Si esa proporción continuase durante el presente año económico, el número de inmigrantes pasaría de 550,000.

En años anteriores, la Oficina de Inmigración tomaba nota del país de donde cada inmigrante llegaba, pero durante el año pasado se ha tomado nota de la nacionalidad ó raza á que cada cual pertenecía. Hasta últimamente, por ejemplo, no se sabía enal era el número de judíos que llegaban, por que había entre ellos alemanes, rusos y polacos. Durante los últimos doce meses, 37,415 judíos fueron admitidos en los Estados Unidos. Los italianos ocupan el primer lugar en la inmigración: el número total que vino de la parte norte de Italia fué de 65,639, y del sur del mismo país, 13,091, ó sean 78,730 inmigrantes. De Irlanda llegaron 32,345 personas, de las cuales 18,625 fueron del sexo femenino, y 13,700 del sexo masculino. Este es el único país de donde vinieron más mujeres que hombres. De todos los países del mundo, con excepción de Valaquia, llegaron inmigrantes á los Estados Unidos. De Africa vinieron 412 personas de raza negra, y también fueron admitidos 1,638 chinos, entre los cuales hubo 11 mujeres.

#### INDUSTRIA DE HIGOS DE ESMIRNA EN CALIFORNIA.

En el mes de junio de este año, el Ministerio de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos publicó un Boletín en el que trata del éxito probable que tendrán los esfuerzos de dicho Ministerio para establecer en California la industria de higos de Esmirna. Según parece, para que el higo de Esmirna dé fruta, se necesita introducir y aclimatar en California un pequeño insecto (*Blastophaga*) de la Europa meridional, que fecundiza la fruta. Los primeros ensayos en la introducción de dicho insecto se verificaron en 1898, y se ha conseguido que algunos de los que se trajeron entonces hayan penetrado en las flores aun cerradas de los higos de Capri que crecen en Fresno, de suerte que los primeros experimentos han dado buenos resultados. El Boletín agrega lo siguiente: "Desde que el insecto ha logrado mantenerse por un año entero, hay razones para creer que continuará procreando, y que California podrá dentro de poco tiempo llevar al mercado higos que posean el mismo sabor delicado que ha dado á los higos de Esmirna importados un puesto tan prominente en el mercado."

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE PLOMO.

El periódico "The Engineering and Mining Journal," que se publica en Nueva York, ha compilado datos dignos sobre la producción de

plomo en los Estados Unidos durante el año de 1898. Según esta autoridad, la producción total en dicho año fué de 238,000 toneladas, lo cual es un aumento de cosa de 29,000 toneladas sobre el año de 1897. El Estado de Colorado contribuyó principalmente á dicho aumento, pues produjo 56,700 toneladas, ó sean 16,000 toneladas más. Idaho, que ocupa el segundo lugar, produjo 56,300 toneladas, lo cual demuestra una disminución de cerca de 1,400 toneladas respecto del año anterior. Por otra parte, Utah, cuyas fundiciones rindieron 45,000 toneladas de plomo, aparece con un aumento de 6,400 toneladas. En la parte sudeste del Estado de Missouri, donde se produjeron 35,000 toneladas, el aumento fué solamente de 1,500 toneladas. También se llama la atención al hecho de que mientras la fundición de quijos domésticos produjo mucho más plomo, la cantidad de este metal obtenida de quijos importados, cantidad que agregó 89,000 toneladas al total, disminuyó en 2,900 toneladas durante el año.

#### PRODUCCIÓN DE CAFÉ EN HAWAII.

Mr. CASPAR WHITNEY, corresponsal especial del periódico "Harper's Weekly," ha publicado últimamente en dicha revista una serie de artículos sobre las Islas de Hawaii. Refiriéndose á los productos de estas nuevas posesiones de los Estados Unidos, dice Mr. WHITNEY que el café, especialmente en la Isla de Hawaii, va á contribuir más que cualquiera otra cosa al desarrollo del país. En todas las islas se encuentran buenos terrenos para café, pero la de Hawaii es la única de todo el grupo que tiene terrenos baldíos. El café de mayor calidad se produce en el distrito de Kona, en la isla de Hawaii, á una altura de 2,000 á 2,500 pies sobre el nivel del mar. Los principales distritos cafetaleros en la Isla de Hawaii son: Kona (48,000 acres), Puna (67,000 acres), ó Hilo (195,000 acres); pero solamente una pequeña parte de estas regiones ha sido plantada de cafetos ó ha resultado aparente para su cultivo. En los tres distritos mencionados, especialmente en Hilo, el Gobierno ha estado preparando los terrenos para la colonización con la mayor rapidez posible. Recibe el Gobierno solamente de cinco á diez pesos por acre, mientras en Hilo, los especuladores venden los terrenos á 50, 60 y hasta 100 pesos por acre. Se calcula que al comprador le cuesta el desmontar y limpiar estos terrenos de 30 á 40 pesos por acre. Según cálculos cuidadosamente hechos, se cree que el costo de mantener por cinco años una plantación de café es de \$150 á \$200 por acre.

Casi todas las buenas tierras de las islas están arrendadas por largo tiempo, y algunas hasta por 30 años, que se considera el período mayor que puede durar un cafeto bajo cultivo. En las Islas de Mani, Kani Oahu se han sembrado café y se esperan excelentes resultados. Los plantadores se proponen sembrar plátanos entre los cafetos, haciendo de este modo que el terreno les rinda doble utilidad, sin que sufra daño alguno ni una ni otra planta. Se espera que cada acre de terreno produzca media tonelada de café y 300 racimos de plátanos.

Mr. WHITNEY calcula que la cosecha de café asciende á 3,000 sacos por año, pero indudablemente la producción es mayor. Según el informe de la Oficina de Estadística del Ministerio de Hacienda de los Estados Unidos para el año económico que terminó el 30 de junio de 1898, la cantidad de café exportada de las Islas de Hawaii á los Estados Unidos fué de 704,113 libras, ó sean 5,334 sacos de 132 libras cada uno. En el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de mayo de 1899 (página 1949) se estima la cosecha total en 5,500 sacos, y probablemente el número será mayor en el año corriente. El precio del café de Hawaii en 1898, según los datos suministrados por las aduanas, fué de 15.67 centavos por libra, ó sea algo más de dos y media veces el valor del café brasileño, por término medio, y solamente tres centavos menos por libra que el café de Arabia, el cual, por ser el más escaso, se considera el mejor que se produce.

#### CONDICIÓN AGRÍCOLA DE PUERTO RICO Y POSIBILIDADES PARA LO FUTURO.

Mr. WILLIAM DINWIDDIE, que ha pasado algún tiempo haciendo investigaciones acerca de los recursos de la Isla de Puerto Rico, ha escrito un interesante libro que fué publicado últimamente por Harper Brothers, de Nueva York, con el título de "Puerto Rico, Its Condition and Possibilities." Dedicar el autor considerable espacio á las ventajas que el país ofrece para la inversión de capitales, pero agrega que "no es tierra aparente para los pobres, por muy ambiciosos que sean."

Refiriéndose á las oportunidades que se ofrecen á los capitalistas, el escritor dice que aquéllos que puedan invertir dinero encontrarán que las plantaciones de caña de azúcar, de café y de tabaco, así como las lecherías son negocios lucrativos. El cultivo de frutas aun no se ha desarrollado, y el negocio de maderas no es muy halagador.

La isla no presenta facilidades de transportes; no tiene establecimientos de luz eléctrica ni fábricas de hielo. En opinión del autor, la cría de ganado ofrece grandes ventajas, porque en el país abundan los pastos y hay mucha agua. No prevalecen aquellas condiciones climatológicas que dan por resultado las sequías.

Uno de los obstáculos que desde luego se presentan es el precio elevado de los terrenos, que cuestan como 100 pesos por acre. La industria de café ocupa el primer lugar, y los terrenos aparentes para este cultivo se venden á un precio de 20 á 500 pesos por acre. Este último precio se paga por plantaciones de cinco años de edad, que esten situadas cerca de los caminos reales, y de las cuales es muy fácil la transportación á la costa del mar. Se cree que ninguna sección del país es superior á otra con respecto al suelo, porque todos los distritos montañosos son muy fértiles, pero las facilidades para transportar las cosechas son mejores en algunas regiones que en otras.

Mr. DINWIDDIE da sus cálculos relativos al costo y cultivo de una plantación de 100 acres, así como á las ganancias que probablemente se

obtendrían de la misma, ganancias que están basadas, sin embargo, sobre el supuesto precio de 15 centavos por la libra de café. Este último es indudablemente demasiado alto, pues el promedio por libra del café de Puerto Rico importado en los Estados Unidos en 1898 fué de 13.39 centavos. Según el autor, una plantación debe dar fruto dentro de cinco años, después de lo cual ha de rendir de 500 á 1,000 libras por acre. El autor describe el método de cultivo, así como el modo de recoger las cosechas y de pulir el grano, dándole el color azulado que tanto aprecian en el mercado francés. Mr. DINWIDDIE calcula la producción anual en 55,000,000 libras, pero según los cálculos hechos por los españoles en el año de 1898, fué solamente de 26,400,000 libras (véase el BOLETÍN MENSUAL correspondiente al mes de mayo de 1899, página 1949).

El café de Puerto Rico es muy estimado en Francia, Alemania, Austria y España. Francia toma el de mejor calidad, mientras que España compra las clases inferiores. Durante muchos años la Isla de Cuba ha importado café.

Al hablar del cultivo de la caña de azúcar y de la manufactura de azúcar, el escritor se expresa así: "Puerto Rico debe de ofrecer un vasto campo á los hombres que, durante un siglo, han estado luchando en Louisiana para cultivar la caña de azúcar bajo condiciones artificiales." En los pequeños ingenios de azúcar se usan los métodos más primitivos y se emplean los antiguos trapiches de madera, movidos por bueyes. El jugo de la caña se euece en una sola paila destinada al efecto. En algunas partes del país existe lo que se llama el sistema de fábrica central, pero la industria en general se encuentra en condición lamentable, á causa de la falta de maquinaria moderna. Se dice que la tierra produce doble más caña que la de los Estados Unidos, y la planta da retoños durante cuatro años por lo menos.

Por lo que hace al tabaco, se cree que puede producirse también como en la Isla de Cuba.

## URUGUAY.

### ENSAYOS EN EL CULTIVO DE ARROZ.

Con fecha 30 de mayo de 1899, el Honorable WILLIAM R. FINCH remitió al Departamento de Estado en Washington el siguiente recorte de un periódico de Montevideo, que muestra la sorprendente producción de arroz en el Departamento de Rivera:

"Por primera vez, el Señor JUAN LEMOS sembró un kilogramo y medio de arroz, lo cual le produjo 150 kilogramos, ó sea una ganancia de ciento por mo. Una muestra de dicho arroz ha sido examinada y declarada de la mejor calidad. Impulsado por este espléndido resultado, el Señor LEMOS aumentará sus trabajos el año próximo. Si el entusiasmo respecto de este producto sigue en aumento, el Departamento de Rivera será mo de los más ricos del país, debido á su clima y á su suelo."

## VENEZUELA.

## NUEVO ARANCEL.

General IGNACIO ANDRADE, Presidente de los Estados Unidos de Venezuela, en uso de la facultad que le conceden los artículos 4 y 12 de la novísima ley de arancel de derechos de importación sancionada por el Congreso Nacional en sus sesiones ordinarias del presente año:

“DECRETA: ARTÍCULO 1.—Se permite la importación por las aduanas de la República de los revólveres de todas clases, y de las cápsulas para los mismos, previo el requisito establecido en el artículo 5 de la ley arancelaria para la introducción de armas de fuego. Los revólveres pagarán á su entrada el derecho señalado en la ley á los artículos de 5ª clase, y las cápsulas el señalado á los artículos de 6ª clase.

“ARTÍCULO 2. Las mercaderías que á continuación se expresan, al ser introducidas por las aduanas de la República, se aforarán en la forma siguiente:

“El papel blanco de imprenta sin cola ó goma, comprendido en el número 31 del nuevo arancel de importación, se aforará en la 2ª clase y pagará doce y medio céntimos de bolívar el kilo.

“El aceite de comer ó de oliva comprendido en el número 32 se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar el kilo.

“Las botellas comunes de vidrio negro ó claro ordinario, y las caceas en que viene ordinariamente la ginebra, comprendidas en el número 13, se aforarán en la 1ª clase y pagarán dos céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“Los instrumentos para artes y oficios con cabos ó sin ellos, y las cajas de madera con algunos de estos instrumentos, artículos todos que se encuentran comprendidos en el número 65, se aforarán en la 3ª clase y pagarán treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“Las barrenas y taladros para perforar piedras y troneos, comprendidos en el número 113, se aforarán en la 2ª clase y pagarán doce y medio céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“El aceite de linaza, comprendido en el número 183, se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“La sémola quebrantada para hacer fideos, comprendida en el número 233, se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“La manteca pura que no esté mezclada con otras grasas, comprendida en el número 249, se aforará en la 3ª clase y pagará treinta céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“El aceite de almendras, comprendido en el número 295, se aforará en la 4ª clase y pagará noventa céntimos de bolívar por kilo.

“Las esencias, perfumería, extractos de todas clases, polvos de arroz perfumados, y otros semejantes, aguas de olor para tocador, pomadas, cosméticos, aceites y jabones perfumados, comprendidos en los números 295, 300, 301, 313, y 380, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

“La bayeta, en piezas, y las cobijas de esta tela comprendidas en el número 311, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

“El hilo de carta y de coser velas y todo hilo torcido en forma de cordón ó sean cordones de algodón blancos ó de color, ya tengan el torcido flojo para aplicarse á tejidos de mano, ya estén retorcidos como

cordeles para otros usos, comprendidos en el número 355, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

“Los satines ó rasos, manzú, calico, brillantinas, lustrillo, cretonas carluccianes, percales, piqué, merinos de algodón y los listados finos de algodón, ó sean los que tienen más de trece hilos de urdimbre y trama en cinco milímetros cuadrados y toda otra tela de algodón semejante, comprendidas en el número 387, se aforarán en la 6ª clase y pagarán tres bolívares por kilo.

“Los sombreros de felpa de seda negra, copa alta, llamados de pelo negro y los demás sombreros de esta forma de cualquiera materia que sean, quedando comprendidos en esta clase los de resorte, los sombreros en cortes, los fieltros filados y cualquiera otra clase de sombreros hechos ó á medio hacer, comprendidos en el número 500, se aforarán en 9ª clase y pagarán veinticuatro bolívares por kilo.

“Los cromos de todas clases, comprendidos en el número 509, se aforarán en la 5ª clase y pagarán un bolívar cincuenta céntimos por kilo.

“Artículo 3.—La nueva Ley de Aranceles sancionada por el Congreso Nacional en sus sesiones ordinarias de este año, comenzará á regir el 1º de setiembre próximo venidero.

“Palacio Federal en Caracas, á 17 de junio de 1899.—Año 88º de la Independencia y 41º de la Federación.”

#### LAS MINAS DE HIERRO DEL ORINOCO.

El periódico “The Iron World,” correspondiente al 27 de julio de este año, dice que la Corte Suprema de Venezuela ha emitido su fallo en el litigio de la “Orinoco Iron Company” contra la corporación conocida con el nombre de “English Raleigh Syndicate,” en favor de la compañía atrás mencionada. El litigio, que ha durado por algún tiempo, fué iniciado con el objeto de establecer el título de propiedad sobre ricas minas de hierro en el río Orinoco. La “Orinoco Iron Company” es una corporación organizada en el Estado de Wisconsin, de los Estados Unidos, y el fallo en referencia la pone en posesión de 14,000 acres de tierra rica en depósitos minerales. La concesión fué obtenida en 1883 por CYRUS FITZGERALD, que era administrador de la mina “El Callao,” en Venezuela. Solamente unos pocos cargamentos de mineral de hierro han sido traídos á los Estados Unidos, pero se asegura que se están haciendo arreglos á fin de explotar las minas y establecer negocios sobre bases regulares. El ingeniero en jefe Mr. DAVID LAWSON, y sus asistentes, los Señores ROBINSON y LYLE, se encuentran en el local de las operaciones, y los trabajos han comenzado ya.

Refiriéndose al mineral extraído de dichas minas, Mr. S. NORTON, que las ha visitado dos veces con carácter profesional, dice que la veta mineral comienza en las montañas de Imataca, como á 54 millas de la desembocadura del Orinoco. Las primeras minas que se explotaron quedan cerca de la isla de Corisimo, y grandes barcos pueden acercarse á una distancia de 50 pies de la costa. En este punto el depósito mineral queda como á 1,600 pies del río, y como á 200 pies sobre su nivel, y aparece en la forma de capas de guijarros de cien libras á cien toneladas de peso, las cuales cubren la cima de las colinas en una

extension de 3,000 pies de largo y 100 pies de ancho. Mr. NORTON opina que existen allí entre 150,000 y 200,000 toneladas de mineral de Bessemer, y cree que la veta tiene un espesor de doce pies. Al occidente de este lugar se encuentran capas minerales que se extienden por 35 millas. En esta dirección las colinas son cada vez más altas, y con el tamaño de éstas aumenta el de los depósitos minerales, siendo en algunos puntos la cabeza del filón de 100 á 300 pies de ancho, de suerte que millares de toneladas yacen en la superficie. Una muestra del mineral de Imataca fué analizada por Mr. CLEMENCE JONES, y Mr. JOHN BIRKINBINE hace referencia á ella en su informe al Departamento Geológico de los Estados Unidos. He aquí el resultado de su examen: Hierro metálico, 66.76; sílica, 0.69; cal, 3.28; manganeso, 0.07; azufre, 0.011; fósforo, 0.0327.

Por lo expuesto se ve que los minerales del Orinoco pueden venir á los mercados americanos á rivalizar con los que ahora se introducen en los Estados Unidos.

#### BANCO AMERICANO EN CARACAS.

Con fecha 5 de mayo de 1899, Mr. EUGENE H. PLUMACHER, Cónsul de los Estados Unidos en Maracaibo, ha dirigido un informe al Departamento de Estado referente al establecimiento en Caracas de una institución bancaria á cuya frente se halla Mr. GEORGE W. UPTON, ciudadano de los Estados Unidos. En una comunicación que ha dirigido al Señor Cónsul PLUMACHER, Mr. UPTON dice que el capital del banco será de 15,000,000 de bolívares (\$2,895,000). El Banco se establecerá dentro de cuatro meses, y la concesión durará cincuenta años. Se ha solicitado del Gobierno que permita la introducción libre de derechos de los muebles y de los materiales necesarios para la construcción de los edificios. Agrega Mr. PLUMACHER que un establecimiento de esta clase en Maracaibo será lucrativo y facilitará el tráfico con los Estados Unidos.

#### PROYECTO DE NAVEGACIÓN INTERIOR.

Con fecha de 16 junio de 1899, el Honorable FRANCIS B. LOOMIS, Ministro de los Estados Unidos en Venezuela, informa al Departamento de Estado en Washington respecto de un plan últimamente presentado al Gobierno, que tiene en mira el establecimiento del mayor sistema de navegación en el mundo. Se trata de unir por medio de canales los grandes ríos de la América del Sur, y de establecer así una vía fluvial desde el valle del Orinoco al del río de la Plata. Se calcula que el costo de este trabajo ascenderá á \$200,000,000, lo cual, sin embargo, no pasa de ser una conjetura, puesto que no se han hecho estudios exactos á fin de determinar el costo probable de dicha obra. Es posible, agrega Mr. LOOMIS, que algunos de los gobiernos sudamericanos se ocupen seriamente en este asunto dentro de pocos años.

## LAS CENIZAS DE UN GRAN DESCUBRIDOR.

Dice el periódico "The New York Tribune," en su número del 27 de julio, que el Gobierno de Venezuela ha dirigido últimamente una amistosa solicitud al de la República Dominicana relativa á los restos del famoso ALONZO DE OJEDA que descubrió á Venezuela, el Golfo de México y el lago de Maracaibo, y que murió y fué enterrado en territorio dominicano. Venezuela desea que las cenizas de este hombre ilustre sean llevadas á Maracaibo, en el Estado de Zulia, cuyo Gobernador, el Dr. JESÚS MUÑOZ TEBAR, fué en un tiempo Ministro de Fomento. El finado presidente de la República Dominicana, M. ULISSE HEREAUX, sentía también profundo respeto por las tradiciones históricas y gustaba de preservar reliquias relacionadas con la historia de su país y con la de América en general. Hizo construir en Santo Domingo un hermoso mausoleo en el cual fueron depositados, en diciembre próximo pasado, los supuestos restos de CRISTÓBAL COLÓN. Estos, según la opinión que prevalece en Santo Domingo, son las verdaderas cenizas del gran Genovés, y solamente las de Diego, hijo de Colón, fueron llevadas de la Habana á la catedral de Sevilla, por las autoridades españolas cuando evacuaron la isla de Cuba. La prensa de Santo Domingo y la opinión pública aprobó la intención del Presidente HEREAUX de no acceder á la súplica del Gobierno venezolano, y lo probable es que los restos de OJEDA permanezcan en el lugar donde él murió.

## EXPORTACIÓN DE HAMBURGO PARA TODA LA AMÉRICA.

Gracias á una atención del Dr. VERSMANN, Bürgermeister de Hamburgo, Alemania, la Oficina de las Repúblicas Americanas ha recibido datos estadísticos sobre el comercio y navegación de Hamburgo para 1898. En la siguiente tabla se verá las exportaciones de Hamburgo para los diferentes países del continente americano:

	Marcos.
América Inglesa .....	11, 643, 630
Estados Unidos (sobre la costa del Atlántico) .....	147, 465, 610
Estados Unidos (sobre la costa del Pacífico) .....	2, 000, 910
México (sobre la costa del Atlántico) .....	22, 194, 990
México (sobre la costa del Pacífico) .....	3, 508, 080

## AMÉRICA CENTRAL.

Guatemala .....	3, 524, 960
Belize .....	51, 930
Honduras .....	692, 040
Salvador .....	1, 016, 510
Nicaragua .....	871, 390
Costa Rica .....	2, 017, 690
Puerto Rico .....	2, 238, 710
Cuba .....	1, 653, 490



	Marcos.
Barbados.....	119, 860
Haiti.....	1, 045, 460
Santo Domingo.....	1, 542, 760
Jamaica.....	458, 840
Trinidad.....	341, 830
Bahamas.....	28, 400
Otras islas.....	86, 640
San Tomas.....	463, 390
Curazao.....	373, 420
Guayana.....	216, 560
Venezuela.....	6, 577, 750
Colombia (sobre el Mar Caribe).....	5, 660, 240
Colombia (sobre la costa del Pacifico).....	1, 031, 050
Paraguay.....	223, 190
Brasil.....	68, 332, 760
República Argentina.....	56, 989, 840
Islas Falkland.....	7, 670
Uruguay.....	8, 623, 950
Chile.....	31, 734, 430
Bolivia.....	2, 926, 560
Perú.....	8, 066, 980
Ecuador.....	4, 196, 800

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El Boletín de la Sociedad de Geografía de Neuchâtel (Tomo XI, 1899) contiene una revista de las más interesantes escrita por Mme. LINA BECK BERNARD, y cuyo título es el siguiente: "Las Misiones Francesas del Desierto Argentino."

La autora presenta un cuadro maravilloso de aquel inmenso territorio, que se extiende desde las costas del Atlántico hasta la cresta de los Andes; habla de su vegetación, de los ríos que lo atraviesan y de las selvas impenetrables que cubren sus riberas; de los numerosos animales de todas clases, así como de las infortunadas razas de seres humanos que los primeros conquistadores del Nuevo Mundo no pudieron ni someter ni civilizar, y que pueblan aquellas fértiles planicies; de las infructuosas tentativas de los jesuitas, quienes á pesar de sus inmensas riquezas y de un poder absoluto, han visto desaparecer su obra, y hace un elogio pomposo de aquellos misioneros franciscanos, que, desprovistos de todo, no tuvieron enfrentarse á todos los peligros para venir á plantar en estas regiones salvajes el estandarte de la civilización y consagrarse á convertir á esta raza bárbara.

Mme. LINA BECK BERNARD publica también en esta revista un extracto de la correspondencia del Padre Constancio Ferrero, en su carácter de Prefecto de las Misiones. Esta correspondencia, cuyos originales están escritos en italiano y en español, ha sido traducida al francés, y da una idea de los inauditos trabajos que se llevaron á efecto, del valor y actividad de aquellos hombres atrevidos y abnegados que

sufrieron todas las privaciones y todas las fatigas por llegar al fin que se habian propuesto. En dicha revista se da una descripción minuciosa y clara sobre el carácter y las costumbres de los indios que habitan aquellas regiones, así como acerca del Gobierno que los rige.

La isla de Puerto Rico estaba primitivamente cubierta de bosques que se extendían desde la orilla del mar hasta la cima de las montañas. Es dudoso si existía un solo palmo de su territorio que no hubiese estado cubierto por una vegetación que comenzaba con los diminutos mangles que crecen á lo largo de la costa, y se desarrollaba hasta manifestarse en árboles seculares, que unían sus copas con las gigantes palmeras que crecen hasta sobre los picos de las cordilleras. Aunque hay en la isla todavía algunas hermosas selvas, éstas no son de gran importancia desde el punto de vista comercial. En enero de 1899, Mr. ROBERT P. HILL, geólogo de la oficina de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos, hizo un viaje á través de Puerto Rico, durante el cual se familiarizó con sus bosques, y mediante averiguaciones hechas entre las personas que se dedican al tráfico de madera, obtuvo muchos informes sobre la calidad de las varias maderas nacionales y sobre el uso á que se las puede dedicar. El resultado de las observaciones de Mr. HILL ha sido publicado en "El Boletín No. 35" de la Sección de Silvicultura del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos, con el título de "Notas sobre la condición de los bosques de Puerto Rico," obra que está ahora en prensa y que pronto verá la luz pública. El informe contiene no solamente una relación sobre los recursos forestales del país y sus selvas, sino también una descripción de las montañas, valles, carácter geológico, suelo y flora de la isla. Se da en detalle una descripción de quince diferentes maderas de Puerto Rico. En el estudio y descripción de las maderas, de las cuales se dan quince grabados en el Boletín, Mr. HILL tuvo la cooperación de Mr. GEORGE D. SUDWORTH, dendrólogo de la Sección de Silvicultura. Los grabados que representan las maderas fueron obtenidos por medio de impresiones hechas directamente en pedazos de las mismas maderas. El Boletín contiene un frontispicio, ocho láminas y nueve grabados en el texto.

"La Carta Meteorológica de los Grandes Lagos" para el mes de junio, publicada por la Oficina de Meteorología de los Estados Unidos, muestra la caída anual de agua y nieve en la hoya de desagüe de los grandes lagos de la parte septentrional de los Estados Unidos, y da una serie de cuadros, con un breve resumen preparado por Mr. A. G. HENRY. El resultado á que se ha llegado es que la influencia de dichos lagos sobre las lluvias, tanto en los Estados Unidos como en el Canadá, no es tan grande como generalmente se creía, y he aquí algunas líneas textuales á ese respecto: "Con excepción del lago Superior, los otros no parecen ejercer mucha influencia sobre las lluvias que ocurren en las tierras adyacentes. Dichas lluvias son mayores al sur que al norte de los lagos Superior, Erie y Ontario. En cuanto al lago Superior, la diferencia es

como de 8 pulgadas, mientras que el promedio al sur de los lagos Erie y Ontario es como de 3 pulgadas más que al norte. En la costa oriental de los lagos Michigan y Huron llueve más que en la costa occidental, pero esta circunstancia no es tan notable como en los otros casos mencionados. La caída de agua es menor en la parte superior de la península de Michigan que á lo largo de la costa, y en el interior de dicho Estado es mucho menor que en las costas de los lagos á uno ú otro lado."

En una obra titulada "Geschichtliches über die Entwicklung des 800 Jährigen Steinkohlenbergbaues an der Worms, 1113-1898," Herr FRANZ BUETTGENBACH, ingeniero de minas, de Aachen, Alemania, acaba de contestar una pregunta que ha ocasionado alguna discusión entre los periódicos mercantiles de Europa. La pregunta en cuestión es la siguiente: "¿ En qué época los habitantes de Europa comenzaron á explotar minas de carbón?" Según antiguos anales escoceses, ya en el año de 1214, antes de que terminara el reinado de Guillermo el León, rey de Escocia, el negocio de carbón ocupaba la atención de los habitantes de la costa meridional de Firth of Fourth, y durante el mismo reinado se otorgó á los monjes de la Abadía de Holyrood, en Edimburgo, título de propiedad sobre la mina de Cariden. En opinión de sabios ingleses, ésta es la primera noticia que se tiene de la existencia de carbón de piedra. Sin embargo, algunos documentos alemanes descubiertos por Herr BUETTGENBACH, no dejan la menor duda de que en el distrito de Worms se encontraron y explotaron minas de carbón cien años antes, por lo menos, ó sea desde 1113. El citado autor publicó antes una obra sobre el mismo asunto.

El Profesor HEUSENS ha publicado un artículo en el periódico alemán geográfico, "Globus," en el cual hace cálculos relativos al promedio de valor de los productos del Mar del Norte, que, como se sabe, es una de las más grandes fuentes de riqueza del mundo en cuanto á la pesca. La cantidad de peces que se cogen en estas aguas representa un valor anual que no baja de \$37,500,000, ni excede de \$45,000,000. El promedio es como de \$41,000,000. El Mar del Norte, incluyendo el Skager Rak, ó sea el golfo entre la parte meridional de Noruega y Suecia, tiene una área de 225,884 millas cuadradas, y por tanto, el valor anual de la pesca en dicho mar es de 18.15 por cada milla cuadrada. Inglaterra y Escocia toman la mayor parte de este producto, correspondiente á la primera \$21,250,000 y á la segunda \$6,650,000. La Holanda toma por valor de \$4,750,000; Francia, \$3,120,000; Alemania, \$2,500,000; Noruega, \$950,000; Bélgica, \$900,000, y Dinamarca \$400,000.

Á solicitud del Señor Don ANTONIO BARRIOS, Ministro de Gobernación de Guatemala, el Señor JOSÉ HORTA ha escrito un folleto de veinte páginas con el título de "El Hule en Guatemala." El objeto de esta publicación, que fué impresa en la Tipografía Nacional, es estimular el

cultivo del hule en la República. Se dice que un informe sobre este particular está en vía de preparación. Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en Guatemala, envió al Departamento de Estado una parte del folleto del Señor HORTA, traducida al inglés, y ésta fué publicada por la Oficina de Comercio Extranjero del Departamento de Estado, como correspondiente á los Consular Reports, No. 370. Á este respecto, se llama la atención á un artículo publicado en "De Indische Mercuur," de Batavia, Java, por M. ALBERTO, con este título "Recomendación del Hule de Guatemala."

Acaba de publicarse la obra titulada: "The Textile World's Directory," para el año de 1899, publicación anual que trata de la industria textil. Las tres secciones en que está dividida la obra contienen datos relativos á las fábricas de tejidos en este país y á sus equipos, así como á las direcciones de los agentes, vendedores y compradores de los mismos, y de los traficantes en materias primas. El trabajo ha sido hecho de una manera perfecta, y los informes en la obra contenidos son de fácil acceso, porque las materias están arregladas en orden alfabético, siguiendo los nombres de estados, ciudades y pueblos. Hay una serie de mapas incorporados en dicha publicación, los cuales indican la localización de las ciudades y pueblos donde existen dichas fábricas en los principales estados manufactureros del país.

Hace cinco años Mr. A. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Comisionado de Navegación de los Estados Unidos, dió principio al trabajo de compilación de las leyes de los Estados Unidos relativas á la navegación y á la marina mercante. El libro, publicado en 1895, fué tan útil como obra de referencia á las personas interesadas en dichos asuntos, y especialmente á los abogados que en ellos se ocupan, por la facilidad de obtener informes sin gastar horas enteras consultando los estatutos, que hubo mucha demanda por el mencionado libro. El Comisionado ha compilado una nueva edición, que acaba de ser publicada por la Oficina de Navegación, y en la cual están incorporadas todas las leyes hasta el 4 de marzo de 1899, época en que el último Congreso suspendió sus sesiones.

La Sección de Equipos Navales del Ministerio de la Marina de los Estados Unidos acaba de preparar y publicar un mapa del mundo, de incomparable utilidad para los marinos. En el se hallan representadas por medio de signos, acompañados de la correspondiente explicación, todas las estaciones carboneras del mundo, en donde se puede conseguir siempre de 500 toneladas de combustible en adelante ó menos de esta cantidad; los muelles, diques y astilleros, con explicación de las dimensiones de los buques que admiten y los puertos donde se puede arribar para hacer reparaciones á los navíos, indicando más ó menos lo que en ellos se puede conseguir. La preparación y publicación de este mapa ha estado á cargo de la Oficina de Hidrografía de Wáshington.

Las actas de la Asociación de Fabricantes de Telas de Algodón de Nueva Inglaterra durante su reunión anual que se verificó en Boston en los días 27, 28 y 29 de abril de 1899, han sido publicadas por la Asociación en forma de folleto. Asistieron á la reunión 287 personas, entre miembros ó invitados. Entre los numerosos escritos presentados á la Asociación sobre varios asuntos de interés especial, es de notar uno del Dr. WILLIAM P. WILSON, Director del Museo Comercial de Filadelfia, que lleva este título: "El Tráfico en Tejidos de Algodón con Nuestros Territorios Recientemente Adquiridos." Como el Dr. WILSON no estaba presente, el escrito fué leído por Mr. E. W. S. TINGLE, de Filadelfia.

Los administradores generales de la Exposición Pan-Americana que se verificará en la ciudad de Búffalo, Estado de Nueva York, durante el verano y el otoño del año de 1901, han comenzado á publicar un periódico para fomentar los intereses de dicha Exposición. El primer número de esta publicación, que es muy bien impresa y contiene hermosas ilustraciones, salió á luz el 15 de julio. Por ahora se publicará solamente dos veces al mes, los días 1º y 10. Más tarde y á medida que la Exposición vaya tomando mayor incremento, dicho periódico se publicará con más frecuencia y su tamaño será mayor. •

Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT HURST ha publicado un libro de 98 páginas, con mapas, cuyo título es: "El Istmo de Panamá, Niágara, Rutas de Canal, etc." Esta obra es una compilación de varios artículos sobre este asunto, escritos en periódicos técnicos por éste y otros autores. También contiene la obra una colección de informes, cartas, etc., de varios ingenieros, viajeros y otros que han estudiado personalmente el problema de canal. Además de las rutas de Panamá y Niágara se habla de otras, tales como las de San Blas y Darién, y se menciona el proyecto de ferrocarril para buques por el istmo de Tehuantepec.

Un corresponsal del periódico "India Rubber World" escribe de Pará, con fecha de 1º de junio de 1899, que en 1900 "para conmemorar el cuadragésimo aniversario del descubrimiento del Brasil, se publicará una obra, escrita por algunos de los más eminentes autores de la República, que será una descripción del país y sus riquezas. El Barón DE MARAJO preparará los capítulos que tratarán de la geografía del Brasil, y el Señor J. LUCIO D'AZEVEDO los que versarán sobre la historia completa de la goma elástica."

La publicación "The Monthly Weather Review" (Oficina Meteorológica de los Estados Unidos), correspondiente al mes de mayo, contiene un minucioso artículo con este título: "Condición climatológica del Istmo de Panamá," por H. T. ABBOTT, General de Brigada de los Estados Unidos (jubilado), con un importante apéndice por el Profesor A. J. HENRY. En él se dan datos sobre la cantidad de agua que cae en los diferentes puntos del istmo. La misma revista contiene un

artículo titulado "Lluvia y Temperatura en Nicaragua," por Mr. A. P. DAVIS.

El 27 de julio del año corriente, Mr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Director del Departamento de Estudios Geológicos de los Estados Unidos, publicó un hermoso mapa, con importantes descripciones de las rutas de exploración en Alaska en 1898, y con informes generales acerca de aquel territorio. El 55º Congreso de los Estados Unidos votó \$20,000 para exploraciones en Alaska, y varias expediciones de geólogos y topógrafos fueron organizadas. La obra en referencia es el resultado de sus estudios.

El sexto informe anual, correspondiente á 1898, del Departamento de Agricultura, Trabajo é Industria del Estado de Montana, á cuyo frente se halla Mr. J. H. CALDERHEAD, como Comisionado, lleva este título: "El Estado Tesoro. Montana y Sus Magníficos Recursos." Las riquezas principales de este Estado consisten, en primer lugar, en sus minas, siendo las de cobre las más notable, y, además, en el vasto campo que ofrece á la agricultura. El informe llena un tomo de 120 páginas y contiene varios mapas.

En la "National Geographic Magazine," correspondiente al mes de julio, hay un artículo muy notable de Mr. C. WILLARD HAYS, sobre el Canal de Nicaragua. En el mismo periódico aparece un escrito de Mr. A. P. DAVIS relativo á los estudios que se han hecho en la ruta de Panamá, y también se describen los trabajos del Departamento de Estudios Geodésicos y de las costas de los Estados Unidos.

La Sección de Aduanas y Negocios Insulares del Ministerio de la Guerra de los Estados Unidos ha publicado el trabajo siguiente: "Traducción de la Ley de Ferrocarriles de la Isla de Cuba y Reglamentos para Ponerla en Ejecución, 1895."

En el número de la revista "The Open Court," correspondiente al mes de julio, hay un artículo del Profesor FREDERICK STARR intitulado "La Supervivencia del Paganismo entre los Indios Mexicanos."

La "Donohue's Magazine," correspondiente al mes de julio, contiene un artículo ilustrado muy interesante sobre Nicaragua, escrito por E. LYELL EARLE.

**BOLETIM MENSAL**  
DA  
**SECRETARIA DAS REPUBLICAS AMERICANAS,**  
União Internacional das Republicas Americanas.

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VOL. VII.

AGOSTO DE 1899.

No. 2.

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**REPUBLICA ARGENTINA.**

**COMMERCIO COM OS ESTADOS UNIDOS EM 1899.**

O Honrado WILLIAM I. BUCHANAN, Ministro dos Estados Unidos na Republica Argentina, remettên á Secretaria de Estado dos Estados Unidos, em data de 6 de Maio de 1899, um relatorio sobre o desenvolvimento do commercio dos Estados Unidos com aquelle paiz nos primeiros tres mezes do anno corrente.

Segundo este relatorio houve um augmento nas importações dos Estados Unidos e uma diminuição nas exportações da Republica para os Estados Unidos. Anexo a esse relatorio ha um quadro que dá o augmento ou a diminuição nas importações e exportações da Republica Argentina no periodo mencionado, comparadas com as do mesmo periodo em 1898. Deste se vê que o augmento no commercio de importação é repartido entre os Estados Unidos e a Inglaterra e que o commercio de importação dos demais paizes fica praticamente estacionario. Houve um grande augmento nas exportações para a França, Alemanha e Belgica, enquanto que nas exportações para os Estados Unidos e a Inglaterra houve uma diminuição de \$158,311 e \$1,940,032, respectivamente. Não obstante a grande diminuição nas exportações para a Grã Bretanha, o Ministro diz que a imprensa argentina cita a diminuição nas compras feitas pelos Estados Unidos como argmento em apoio da contenda de que a tarifa da lã dos Estados Unidos prejudica a lã da Republica Argentina. A diminuição na exportação para o Chile e a Italia, que são os principaes dos outros paizes mostrando diminuição de exportações, foi de \$508,061 e \$269,597, respectivamente. O valor total das exportações no primeiro trimestre de 1899 foi de

\$47,532,893, contra \$43,970,805, no mesmo periodo de 1898, ou um augmento de \$3,562,088. O augmento no valor das exportações foi devido ao alto preço da lã. Lã de excellente qualidade foi vendida recentemente em Buenos Ayres por um preço maior do que o que tem reinado durante os ultimos quinze annos. O valor das exportações de cereaes tem diminuido, ainda que a quantidade exportada tem augmentada. Segundo o quadro dado pelo Ministro, foram exportados da Republica Argentina no periodo decorrido entre 1º de Outubro de 1898 e 1º de Maio de 1899, 396,738 fardos de lã, o qual mostra uma diminuição sobre os embarques do anno anterior, de 415,109 fardos. Durante o primeiro periodo mencionado 6,262 fardos de lã foram exportados para os Estados Unidos contra 10,995 fardos no anno anterior. Ainda que houve uma diminuição no numero de fardos de lã exportados, o valor da exportação para o periodo findo em 1º de Maio de 1899 excedeu ao do periodo correspondente do anno anterior em \$4,572,430.

O Ministro diz que não seja fora de proposito mencionar, que, de um ligeiro estudo do assumpto é da opinião de que alguns ramos das manufacturas argentinas têm recebido grande impulso e beneficio da Exposição Nacional dos productos argentinos que foi aberta em Buenos Ayres e muita concorrida durante os ultimos tres mezes de 1898. A exposição foi uma revelação, e sem duvida deu muito estímulo aos esforços feitos pelas industrias argentinas no sentido de manter os impostos aduaneiros sobre mercadorias importadas tão altos como for possível.

O Sr. DANIEL MAYER, Consul dos Estados Unidos em Buenos Ayres, remetteu á Secretaria de Estado dos Estados Unidos, em data de 9 de Maio de 1899, um relatório sobre o commercio de importação da Republica Argentina, dando o valor total da importação dos diferentes paizes durante o primeiro trimestre de 1899, comparado com o do periodo correspondente de 1898. Os valores são dados na moeda de onro da Argentina, um dollar sendo equivalente a .965 na moeda dos Estados Unidos.

Paiz.	1899.	1898.	Augmento.	Diminuição.
Grã Bretanha.....	11,383,548	9,596,771	1,786,777	.....
Italia.....	3,698,244	3,373,586	324,658	.....
Allemanha.....	3,685,693	3,300,716	384,977	.....
Estados Unidos.....	3,513,086	1,896,327	1,616,759	.....
França.....	2,827,638	2,706,925	120,713	.....
Belgica.....	2,597,327	2,501,985	.....	54,658
Brazil.....	1,040,970	1,173,924	.....	132,954
Espanha.....	645,742	915,567	.....	269,825
Paraguay.....	292,607	345,705	.....	53,098
Uruguay.....	129,607	119,807	9,715	.....
Hollanda.....	27,356	18,445	8,911	.....
Portugal.....	23,733	21,348	2,385	.....
Chile.....	19,082	7,341	11,741	.....
Bolivia.....	7,556	6,457	1,099	.....
As Antilhas.....	4,275	7,000	.....	2,725
Os demais paizes.....	14,598	28,207	.....	13,609
Total.....	29,821,072	26,080,196	3,740,876	.....

O Ministro BUCHANAN commenta no que elle considera a phase mais interessante da questão da fabricação, que é o effeito que tem um augmento no valor do papel moeda sobre a importação. "Os fabricantes e



productores aqui estão invariavelmente oppostos a qualquer plano que tem por objecto augmentar o valor do papel moeda do paiz. Elles desejam nma alta taxa de onro, isto é, nma depreciação no valor do papel moeda. Uma baixa taxa de onro, isto é, um augmento no valor do papel moeda, equivale a uma redneção nos direitos sobre artigos importados, e, por consequente, o commercio do fabricante fica prejudicado, pois, torna-se-lhe mais difficil fazer concurrença com o artigo importado. \* \* \* Estou certo de que o augmento na importação acima indicado teria sido ainda maior si o Governo não tivesse mantido em vigor durante este anno, o direito provisório addicional de 10 por cento que foi imposto no mez de Setembro ultimo, como medida de guerra."

O ministro dá nma illustração da operação practica da alta no valor do papel moeda sobre artigos importados, e, ao mesmo tempo, mostra a razão por que os fabricantes argentinos desejam a depreciação do papel moeda. O relatorio é dado por completo no numero dos Relatorios Consulares correspondente a 10 de Julho de 1899.

#### INSPECÇÃO DO TRIGO E DO MILHO.

Por um decreto de 8 de Maio de 1899 o Governo da Argentina organison um serviço de inspecção do trigo e do milho nos portos de Buenos Aires, La Plata, Bahía Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolas e Villa Constitución. Este serviço foi estabelecido com o fim de verificar si o grão está nas condições necessarias para sua exportação para os mercados estrangeiros.

A inspecção não será obrigatoria e terá lugar sómente no caso dos proprietarios ou consignatarios a pedirem, pagando-se pela inspecção, 10 centavos por 1,000 kilogrammas.

Segundo o preambulo deste decreto, seu objecto é regular as transacções e impedir, tanto quanto possivel, as medidas restrictivas que pudessem embaraçar a exportação dos grãos para o estrangeiro e finalmente estimular a produção de cereaes de primeira ordem na Argentina. O segundo paragrapho desta clausula introductora declara que essa inspecção, limitada como é presentemente ao trigo e ao milho, tem por fim principal a verificação official de que estes productos são bem seccos, limpos e sãos.

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### BRAZIL.

#### A ESCASSEZ DA IPEACUANHA.

Ha dez annos passados, podiase comprar nos Estados Unidos nma quantidade qualquer de ipeacuanha do Rio à \$1.25 a libra, mas hoje custa \$4.25 a libra, por causa da escassez do producto e é provavel que ainda augmente mais o preço. A produção tem diminuida e dizem que o *stock* de ipeacuanha do mundo está nas mãos de alguns negociantes dos Estados Unidos.

Agora trata-se de substituir a ipecacuanha de Carthageua pela do Brazil. Pelo meos ha dous pontos de differença entre essas duas variedades—o aspecto e o alcaloide, do qual depende a força do producto. O alcaloide da variedade do Brazil é conhecido sob o nome de “emetine” e “cephaeline” o do producto de Carthageua. A acção desses alcaloides como medicamento é muito differente e a importação d’esta ultima variedade é prohibida nos Estados Unidos.

Uma causa da diminuição na produção da ipecacuanha do Rio é o trabalho de cavar as raizes, que é considerado muito fatigante especialmente desde que descobriu-se que a colheita da heracha é mais remuneradora. Com a actual escassez de ipecacuanha é de suppór que seja mais remuneradora a collecta das raizes d’esta planta.

#### CIRCULAR EXPEDIDA PELO MINISTRO DA INDUSTRIA.

Tendo o Museu Commercial, de Philadelphia, deliberado fazer na mesma cidade uma exposiçào interuational commercial, que deverà realizar-se em Outubro do corrente anno, segundo o plano indicado no folheto incluso, e sendo de toda a conveniencia que a Republica dos Estados Unidos do Brazil ali figure de modo honroso e digno dos seus variados recursos, appello para o vosso prestimoso auxilio, que, para aquelle fim e pelos meos a vosso alcance, faciliteis, quanto possivel, a remessa:

(a) de amostras das diversas especies de madeiras, caseas, folhas, fructos, seuentes, raizes, resinas, fibras, lãs, sedas, algodões, couros crús e curtidos, pelles; materias corantes e para cortume, productos alimenticios, oleos mineraes, vegetaes e animaes, plantas e drogas medicinaes e odoríferas, borracha, mineraes, etc.:

(b) de nuapas, cartas, estatisticas, monographias, relatorios de associações commerciaes, industriaes, de credito, de companhias de estradas de ferro e de navegaçào, catalogos de obras referentes ao Brazil, preços correntes no mercado e emprego dos diversos productos enviados, e tudo quanto possa dar a conhecer o seu valor commercial e industrial.

Os objectos e productos obtidos, representados estes ultimos por amostras de grandeza sufficiente para quaesquer experiencias physico-chimicas, deverão ser convenientemente acondicionados e transportados alé o primeiro porto de embarque para o exterior, por conta do ministerio a meu cargo, o qual, mediante prévio aviso vosso, providenciará junto ao representante do referido museu, nesta capital, para que os faça condnzir d’ali ao seu destino sem mais onus para a União.

Sendo o fim deste tentam a propagauda das nossas riquezas naturaes nos mercados estrangeiros e principalmente nos dos Estados Unidos da America, é da maior conveniencia que as remessas de productos, ou artigos, sejam acompanhadas de indicações e noticias que, aléu de suas denominações, consignem a sua procedencia, quantidades que podem ser fornecidas annualmente, preços por que o podem ser uos portos de embarque e quaesquer outros esclarecimentos que facilitem as relaçoes de commercio para acquisição dos mesmos.

Apoiando este commettimento com o valioso e efficaç concurso do vosso reconhecido patriotismo, prestareis mais um assignalado serviço á Republica.

#### ASSOCIAÇÕES AGRICOLAS.

D' "A Lavoura" extrahimos o seguinte artigo sobre as associações agricolas do Brazil:

"Caminha sem cessar a propaganda agricola; surgem de todos os lados novas legiões de lidadores que vêm pugnar pelo progresso da agricultura nacional; agita-se por toda a parte o lábaro sagrado do amor do patrio solo. Todos se congregam em torno da mesma idéa: libertar o paiz da importação agricola estrangeira pela cultura da terra; dar conforto e renome ao povo brasileiro pela cultura da terra; melhorar as finanças pela cultura da terra.

"Em Curitiba, no Estado do Paraná, acha-se funcionando a Sociedade Estado do de Agricultura cuja directoria compõe se dos Srs. Drs. VICTOR FERREIRA DO AMARAL, presidente; desembargador ERMELINO DE LEÃO, vice-presidente; EUCLIDES CESAR PLAISANT e BRAZILINO MOURA, secretarios; GERONIMO LA TORRE, procurador, e FRANCISCO J. P. P. REQUIÃO, thesoureiro.

"No dia 16 de outubro ultimo, na cidade de Castro, nesse mesmo Estado, installou-se a Sociedade Agricola e Pastoril Castrense com a seguinte directoria: Presidente, Dr. JAVERT MADUREIRA; vice-presidente, Dr. ANTONIO BLEY; orador, Dr. JERONYMO CABRAL PEREIRA DO AMARAL; primeiro secretario, Dr. ALBERTO GASTON SENGES; segundo secretario, FRANCISCO DE ANDRADE; thesoureiro, Pharmaceutico ANNIBAL ESTEVES.

"No Rio Grande do Sul foram fundadas; em S. Borja a Sociedade Sul Rio Grandense Progresso Agricola, que tem por presidente do Conselho Director o Senhor ROMÃO FIORAVANTI TROÏSE, e em Pelotas, séde do Lyceu de Agronomia e Veterinaria, que já publica mensalmente uma "Revista Agricola," foi creada ultimamente uma Sociedade Agricola e Pastoril, de cuja directoria fazem parte distinctos professores do referido lyceu e outras pessoas gradas do logar. Esta sociedade vai realizar em abril proximo uma exposição agricola na cidade de Pelotas. Em Pernambuco, na capital, reorganizou-se a Sociedade Auxiliadora da Agricultura, e, em Curuçá, no Pará, fundou-se outra identica associação, tendo por directores os Senhores MANOEL JERONYMO GUIMARÃES, JOÃO GUALBERTO DE CAMPOS, AUGUSTO RAMOS PINHEIRO, MANOEL DE SIQUEIRA LOBO e BRUNO J. ALVES. Em Anchieta, Estado do Espirito-Santo, mais uma associação agricola acaba de ser fundada."

#### FUNDOS PUBLICOS.

Extrahimos d' "A Noticia" de 25 de Maio o seguinte editorial sobre os fundos publicos do Brazil:

"Merece consiguação especial, além das simples cifras telegraphicas e de movimento de praça, a alta enorme que têm tido os fundos publicos brasileiros nestes ultimos tempos.

“O último telegramma dos Senhores Rothschilds ao Banco da Republica dá a cotação de 67 para os títulos de 1879, 1888 e 1889, de 75 para os títulos de 1895, de 91 para o *funding* e de 72 para a Oeste de Minas. Como a alta tem sido progressiva, não impressiona, comparada com as recentes cotações; mas a impressão é assombrosa se o paralelo é estabelecido, tornando-se para termo época um pouco mais afastada, embora não muito remota.

“Veja-se, por exemplo, a cotação em fins do anno passado. O telegramma dos mesmos banqueiros, expedido a 29 de Dezembro, portanto ha cinco mezes apenas, dava as cotações que abaixo publicamos ao lado das cotações de hontem, accrescida na terceira columna a alta que tem havido nos títulos:

Títulos.	29 de	22 de Maio.	Alta.
	Dezembro.		
	<i>Por cento.</i>	<i>Por cento.</i>	<i>Por cento.</i>
1879 .....	55	67	12
1888 .....	55	67	12
1889 .....	54	67	13
1895 .....	62	75	13
Funding .....	86	91	5
Oeste de Minas .....	58	72	14

“Vê-se por esses numeros a colossal alta que em tão curto periodo se tem operado. É ainda mais significativo se torna o facto, se se reduzir a percentagem a cifras dinheiro. Note se que a diferença de cambio não influe no facto; as taxas de 29 de Dezembro variaram entre  $7\frac{5}{8}$  e  $7\frac{3}{4}$ , mais ou menos as mesmas de 22 do corrente. Para facilitar o calculo tomaremos a taxa de 8, para dar á libra o valor de 30\$; e nesta base verá o leitor quanto ganhou o portador de cada £100 em títulos do Brazil, no curto periodo que medeia entre aquellas duas datas:

Título.	Alta em libras.	Alta em reis.
1879 .....	12	360000
1888 .....	12	360000
1889 .....	13	405000
1895 .....	13	390000
Funding .....	5	150000
Oeste de Minas .....	14	420000

“O apreço assignalado em globo mostra em quanto este movimento de restauração do credito publico tem sido proveitoso aos portadores dos nossos títulos. A seguinte tabela dá os totaes aproximados dos títulos em circulação, em libras, e os seus valores nas duas datas:

Títulos.	Circulação.	29 de Dezembro.	22 de Maio.	Para mais.
1879 .....	£2,790,000	£1,531,500	£1,850,300	£318,800
1888 .....	5,393,100	2,966,205	3,613,377	647,172
1889 .....	18,543,300	9,915,315	12,417,311	2,501,996
1895 .....	7,338,000	4,559,118	5,504,173	954,055
Funding .....	1,500,000	1,390,000	1,365,000	75,000
Oeste de Minas .....	3,500,000	2,000,000	2,520,000	490,000
Total da diferença para mais .....				5,000,025

“Isto quer dizer que a fortuna englobada dos portadores destes títulos accresceu no espaço de cinco mezes em cinco milhões de libras esterlinas, ou ao cambio de \$, em cento e cincoenta mil contos de reis.

“Quanto aos títulos da dívida interna, as cotações eram em Dezembro: Apolices de 5 por cento 830\$; empréstimo de 1895, 870\$, e empréstimo de 1897, 940\$. As cotações actuaes são para as apolices de 5 por cento, 904\$; para empréstimo de 1895, 892\$; para o empréstimo de 1897, 996\$000.

“Não podem ser mais eloquentes, como termometro de franco renascimento de confiança, os algarismos que ali ficam.”

## PERU.

### A VANTAGEM DAS ESTRADAS DE FERRO NA EXPLORAÇÃO DE MINAS.

Segundo um artigo publicado no “Courrier du Pérou” de 8 de Junho de 1899, o Ministro das Relações Interiores do Peru dirige á Companhia Nacional de Minas, uma comunicação, perguntando-lhe si não seria mais vantajoso para a companhia estabelecer fornos de fundição do que construir a projectada estrada de ferro desde Oroya até Cerro de Pasco, ao que a companhia replicou em parte:

“Como os cinco fornos de fundição que agora existem no paiz pertencem a companhias particulares e por isso não podem ser usados senão por limitado numero de minas, a maior parte dos que se occupam na exploração de minas, limitam as suas operações á exportação do minerio, e devido ás difficuldades do transporte e especialmente por serem muito altos os preços exigidos, podem sómente negociar em minerios de primeira qualidade. Por isso, a produção mensal de minerio para a exportação—cuja qualidade varia entre 20 e 40 por cento—é calculada em 1,500 toneladas metricas. Quanto aos minerios que se usam nos fornos de fundição—cuja qualidade varia entre 18 e 30 por cento—a produção média mensal é de cerca de 700 toneladas.”

A Companhia tambem accrescenta:

“Podemos dar-lhes garantia positiva de que a quantidade de minerio de 20 por cento para cima que está á vista nas minas em exploração, é fabulosa. É por isso, obvio, si fosse estabelecido grande numero de fornos, assim como uma estrada de ferro de Cerro de Pasco até Oroya e Casapalen, haveria uma produção mensal de 4,000 a 5,000 toneladas metricas.

“Esta Companhia acredita que o que se necessita para assegurar a prosperidade do valle mineral do Cerro de Pasco é a construcção da projectada estrada de ferro.”

Quanto á produção do carvão, os administradores da Companhia dizem que até agora as minas não tem sido bem examinadas, e, por consequente, seria conveniente que o Governo nomeasse uma comissão

para examinal as cuidadosamente. "Segundo o que pensam os geologos proeminentes, ha uma abundancia de carvão de boa qualidade."

Este relatório da Compañia Nacional de Mineração apresentado em resposta ao pedido do Governo, era datado de 23 de Abril de 1899, e no dia 5 de Maio o Governo chamou propostas para a construção da estrada de ferro, cujas condições foram publicadas minuciosamente no *BOLETIM* correspondente ao mez de Junho, na pagina 2174.

## ESTADOS UNIDOS.

### COMMERCIO COM OS PAIZES LATINO-AMERICANOS.

#### RELAÇÃO MENSAL DAS IMPORTAÇÕES E EXPORTAÇÕES.

O quadro dado na pagina 175 é extrahido da relação compilada por O. P. AUSTIN, chefe da Repartição de Estatística do Ministerio da Fazenda, mostrando o commercio entre os Estados Unidos e os paizes latino-americanos. A relação corresponde ao mez de Junho da 1899, e é corrigida até o dia 27 de Julho de 1899, com uma relação comparativa para o periodo correspondente do anno anterior, assim como para os 12 mezes findos em Junho de 1899, comparados com os correspondentes de 1898. Deve-se explicar que os algarismos das varias alfandegas, mostrando as importações e exportações de um só mez, são recibidos no Ministerio da Fazenda até quasi o dia 20 do mez seguinte, e perde-se algum tempo necessariamente em sua compilação e impressão. Por conseguinte, as estatísticas para o mez de Junho, por exemplo, não são publicadas até os primeiros dias de Julho.

#### AUGMENTO DA MARINHA MERCANTE.

O anno fiscal findo em 30 de Junho de 1899, tem visto grande andamento em construções navaes. A frota dos navios mercantes dos Estados Unidos foi augmentada durante este anno por um numero de navios maior do que o de qualquer outro anno deste quarto do seculo, com excepção do de 1891. Segundo os relatorios officiaes, foram construidas durante o anno 1,429 embarcações, arqueando 320,876 toneladas, e, além destas, foram construidas no estrangeiro e registradas nos Estados Unidos 22 embarcações de 30,181 toneladas. Quasi todas estas novas embarcações são destinadas ao commercio de cabotagem, mas crê-se que no anno de 1899-1900 muitos navios serão construidos para o commercio exterior.

Esta é a primeira vez na historia do paiz que a tonelagem total embarcações a vapor excede a tonelagem total de todas as outras classes de embarcações registradas. Durante o anno foram construidos 460 navios a vela, de 96,458 toneladas, comparados com 126, de 42,502

toneladas para o anno anterior. O numero de vapores construidos durante o anno foi de 178, com uma tonelagem de 167,851 toneladas, contra 448, com uma tonelagem de 110,128 toneladas, para o anno anterior.

Ainda que as construcções de navios de vapor excedem ás de navios de vela, está se construindo nos Estados Unidos grande numero destes. De facto, tem se construido maior numero de navios de vela de grande deslocamento do que no anno anterior. Não obstante que o systema de vapor tem substituido o de vélas para muitos dos ramos do commercio, ainda se empregam os navios de véla em grande escala, porque são mais baratos e podem fazer grandes viagens sem tocar em porto para supprir-se de carvão. Empregam-se grande numero de navios de véla no commercio costeiro para as mercadorias pesadas que não pagam altos preços de frete. Também se empregam extensivamente esses navios para fazer extensas viagens, como, por exemplo, para a China e a India e para o commercio do Pacifico.

Devido ao augmento da marinha mercante os estaleiros dos Estados Unidos têm contractos para construcções navaes sufficientes para mantel-os empregados durante o anno proximo vindoura. O acrescimo de um numero de grandes navios á marinha mercante do paiz é de grande importancia, pois augmenta a força naval em tempo de guerra, podendo ser utilizados os navios de grande velocidade como cruzadores auxiliares, transportes e carvoeiros. A vantagem de ter grande numero de taes navios foi demonstrada durante a guerra Hispano-Americana do anno passado e também foi provado que se necessita uma grande frota para transportar um numero ainda moderado de tropas.

#### PRODUÇÃO DO CHÁ.

Durante a primeira semana do mez de Julho, os funcionarios da Secretaria da Agricultura em Washington receberam informação de que chá produzido nos Estados Unidos foi posto á venda em Nova York pela primeira vez na historia do paiz. Este chá foi cultivado na plantação do Dr. CHARLES U. SHEPARD, em Pinehurst, Carolina do Sul, á distancia de 20 milhas de Charleston, aonde tem-se experimentado cultivar o chá durante os ultimos vinte annos. Esta plantação de chá foi estabelecida pela Secretaria da Agricultura e desde então tem sido subsidiada por differentes modos pelo Governo. Nos ultimos annos o Dr. SHEPARD tem conseguido produzir uma pequena colheita que foi toda vendida na propria plantação, aos freguezes regulares. A ultima colheita, porém, era demasiado grande para as exigencias do mercado local e uma quantidade foi enviada para Nova York, onde foi vendida em grosso e depois foi posta á venda a retalho. Este chá é apresentado no mercado como chá Americano e vende-se por um maior preço do que o que se paga pelas variedades mais raras do chá da China e do Japão.

Si bem que os cultivadores de chá do Japão e da China tenham em

sen favor as vantagens do China e da experiencia, tambem o Dr. SHEPARD pode aproveitar-se de algumas condições encontradas sómente nos Estados Unidos que o põem em condição quasi igual á dos seus concorrentes estrangeiros. Os cultivadores japonezes e chinezes teem de empregar os methodos mais custosos de empacotar seu producto para a exportação embrulhando o em folha d'estanho grossa e em varias camadas de esteira e outros envolveros afim de conservar o sabor natural e as outras qualidades da planta. É bem sabido que uma viagem por mar prejudica muito o chá, privando-o em grande parte do seu sabor natural e perfume, além de prejudicial-o em outros respeitois. O chá cultivado pelo Dr. SHEPARD não tem que lutar com nenhuma destas desvantagens e não é prejudicado de maneira alguma.

Ha alguns annos passados, a Secretaria da Agricultura distribuiu uma quantidade de plantas de chá nos diferentes Estados do sul com o fim de fomentar o seu cultivo. Com a excepção unica do Dr. SHEPARD, não houve ninguem que se dedicasse com seriedade a este cultivo. Este senhor começou o cultivo em pequena escala e com o subsidio mencionado tem conseguido estabelecer uma industria que lhe dá boa renda. Entre os problemas encontrados existia o de cultivar o chá n'um districto em que a maxima queda d'agua por anno fosse só de 56 pollegadas, ao passo que os cultivadores da Asia pretendem que a planta necessita de 80 a 100 pollegadas de queda d'agua por anno e que quanto mais abundante for a chuva no principio do anno, tanto melhor será para a planta. Alguns dos districtos da Asia mais produtores do chá tem 120 pollegadas de queda de chuva por anno. Além disto, o Dr. SHEPARD teve conhecimento de que os entendidos concordaram em que a temperatura nunca deve ser menos de 40°. Em Pinehurst, a temperatura baixa a 15° no inverno. Afim de aproveitar o maximo das chuvas e distribui-las uniformemente, o terreno foi regado, bem lavrado e pulverizado a uma profundidade de 18 pollegadas; um systema geral de cultivo superficial resultou em augmentar a humidade do solo. Assim o Dr. SHEPARD obteve uma humidade igual a 10 ou 15 pollegadas de chuva.

O trabalho era uma questão seria, pois verificou-se que para colher uma libra de chá na Carolina do Sul, o custo era oito vezes maior que na Asia. Achou-se impossivel manter empregado constantemente um pessoal sufficiente para recolher as folhas á medida que fossem amadurecendo. Por conseguinte o Dr. SHEPARD adoptou o plano de uma especie de kindergarten, fazendo que um grande numero de crianças de côr frequentasse gratuitamente a sua escola. Eusino-lhes a ler e escrever, e em troca as crianças tinham de colher o chá, recebendo além do eusino, dinheiro bastante para as despesas de comida e vesuario. Algumas destas crianças teem se tornado muito entendidas na industria, si bem que não iguaem os peritos da China e do Japão.

O Senhor WILLIAM SAUNDERS, um horticultor da Secretaria da Agricultura, fez recentemente uma visita a essa plantação de chá e ao sub-



metter o seu relatório, disse o seguinte com relação ás possibilidades da industria do chá nos Estados Unidos:

“Ninguém deve emprender a cultura do chá com esperança de exito, sem ter experiencia na applicação practica dos principios que governam os detalhes da industria. É uma industria especial e exige estudos especiaes que podem ser feitos do melhor modo na propria plantação onde estão-se levando a cabo todas as operações. Quem quer entregar-se á cultura do chá deve fazer aprendizagem e familiarizar-se com todas as operações desde o semear da semente até o empacotamento da folha preparada. Além disto ha a questão sempre pendente do trabalho. É obvio que a industria sómente poderá tornar-se lucrativa, produzindo se um artigo de qualidade muito superior e para conseguir isto exige-se muito mais cuidado na colheita das folhas do que na preparação de um artigo de qualidade inferior, empregando-se folhas mais duras e velhas.”

#### PRODUÇÃO DO CHUMBO.

As estatísticas revistas da produção de chumbo nos Estados Unidos durante o anno de 1898, preparadas pelo *Engineering and Mining Journal* de Nova York, mostram que a produção total para o anno foi de 238,000 toneladas, ou um augmento de umas 29,000 toneladas sobre a produção do anno de 1897. O Estado de Colorado contribuiu com a maior parte do augmento, sendo sua produção total de 56,700 toneladas, ou um augmento de 16,000 toneladas sobre a do anno anterior. Idaho occupa o segundo lugar com a produção total de 56,300 toneladas, ou uma diminuição de 1,400 toneladas comparada com a do anno anterior. O Estado de Utah, por outro lado, cuja produção total foi de 45,000 toneladas, mostra um augmento de 6,400 toneladas, ao passo que na produção do sueste de Missouri que foi de 35,000 toneladas, houve um augmento de só 1,500 toneladas. Tambem se nota que o chumbo produzido de mineral nacional augmentou consideravelmente, enquanto que o chumbo fundido de mineral estrangeiro, que foi de 89,000 toneladas, mostrou uma diminuição de 2,900 toneladas.

#### A INDUSTRIA DOS FIGOS NA CALIFORNIA.

A Secretaria da Agricultura dos Estados Unidos tem publicado um boletim que trata do provavel exito dos esforços feitos pela Secretaria para estabelecer a industria do figo de Smyrna na California. Para que o figo de Smyrna dê fructo, é necessario introduzir da Europa do Sul e estabelecer na California um pequeno insecto que fertiliza o figo. Em 1898, foram introduzidos alguns insectos, os quaes têm conseguido penetrar as flores dos figos de Capri em Fresno, assim teudo exito o primeiro passo do ensaio. O Boletim acrescenta: “Como o insecto tem-se mantido por um anno, ha de crêr que continuará a criar-se, e que a

California poderá no proximo futuro dar ao mercado um figo de sabor superior ignal ao do figo de Smyrna, que o tem feito tanto apreciado no mercado."

**NOTA BIBLIOGRAPHICA.**

Com o titulo "A Bahia e a administração do conselheiro Dr. Luiz Vianna" vai ser publicada uma obra interessante.

É um vasto repositorio de tudo quanto possa interessar saber-se acerca da vida material do progressista Estado da Bahia, e do muito que pelo seu desenvolvimento economico, industrial, commercial e agricola tem feito o illustre estadista que se aeha á frente do seu governo.

Dsta obra será publicada em portuguez e francez e dentro em breves dias communicamos o seu organizador, Senhor JOÃO DE PINO MACHADO, será exposta á venda nas principaes livrarias da nossa capital.

# BULLETIN MENSUEL

DU

## BUREAU DES RÉPUBLIQUES AMÉRICAINES,

Union Internationale des Républiques Américaines.

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VOL. VII.

AOÛT, 1899.

No. 2.

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### RÉPUBLIQUE ARGENTINE.

#### DEMANDE DE MACHINES AGRICOLES.

Le Consul français à Cordoba a informé récemment son Gouvernement que la République Argentine avait besoin de machines agricoles. Il dit que cette République est devenue un marché important pour les machines agricoles de toutes sortes, étant donné le rapide développement de la culture des céréales et Inzerne (alfalfa) dans ce pays. Il ajoute que les machines qui existent actuellement doivent être remplacées avant peu par de nouvelles, à cause du manque d'expérience de ceux qui en ont le maniement; les batteuses mécaniques sont dans un tel état de délabrement qu'elles sont une source de danger pour ceux qui en font usage et même font courir aux fermiers le risque de perdre leur récolte, faute de machines. En conséquence, les manufacturiers français ne sauront jamais trop apprécier la vraie importance de ce marché dont les besoins augmentent si rapidement. Ce marché est sans contredit presque monopolisé par les Etats-Unis et la Grande-Bretagne, mais si les Français voulaient suivre leur exemple et établir un dépôt à Buénos-Ayres, Rosario, et même à Cordoba, ils pourraient facilement entrer en concurrence avec ces puissances. Il est nécessaire aussi de ne pas oublier que les machines les moins coûteuses peuvent être vendues plus facilement.

Les propriétaires fonciers sont plutôt spéculateurs que vrais fermiers et attachent peu d'importance à la perfection et à la durée des machines qu'ils emploient.

En ce qui concerne la Province de Cordoba, le Consul évalue à 19,909 le nombre des machines de toutes sortes importées et en usage dans

les différentes colonies agricoles pendant l'année 1892, y compris les charrettes et les chariots. Depuis cette époque jusqu'en 1898, ce total a augmenté de 57,497, divisé de la façon suivante: 39,474 charrues, 11,805 chariots, 11,192 herse, 4,375 rouleaux ou brise-mottes, 2,725 charrettes, 1,692 semoirs, 852 machines à couper la corne du maïs (*corn cob cutters*), 686 faucheurs et lieurs, 320 batteuses à vapeur et 285 égrenoirs. Ces chiffres ne comprennent pas 180 batteuses à vapeur, qui parcourent le pays aussitôt après la moisson et qui sont mises à la disposition des petits fermiers.

Les machines généralement employées dans cette province sont: Charrues des Etats-Unis avec un soc, N<sup>os</sup>. 1½, 2½ et 8½, vendues 4 piastres 50, 5 piastres et 6 piastres 50 (les prix sont tous cotés en or); les égrenoirs "Virginia," provenant des Etats-Unis, se vendent 28 piastres; les égrenoirs "Clinton" à main se vendent 6 piastres; les faux provenant de France sont évaluées à 6 piastres la douzaine; les pelles des Etats-Unis coûtent 6 piastres 70, et les anglaises 5 piastres la douzaine; les sarceloirs "Colorado" et "Collins," provenant des Etats-Unis, se vendent respectivement 2 piastres 70 et 14 piastres la douzaine; ceux de France "Pengeot," 3 piastres 50 la douzaine; les moissonneuses anglaises "Albion," Nos. 5 et 7, rapportent 70 et 80 piastres, et celles "Osborn" et "Eureka," provenant des Etats-Unis, se vendent respectivement 70 et 110 piastres. Les batteuses et les semoirs se vendent très peu à Cordoba, les fermiers du sud de la province les achetant à Buénos-Ayres. La crise qui affecte en ce moment l'industrie du sucre a causé une baisse considérable dans les importations des machines pour moulins à sucre. Un cinquième du commerce est entre les mains des Français, et la plus grande partie du matériel et de l'outillage des moulins à sucre de Tucuman a été fournie par les Français. Les machines sont achetées à cinq mois de crédit ou au comptant à 5 pour cent d'escompte.

Un rapport du Consul Belge à "Entre Rios," au sujet de l'outillage des fermes dans cette partie de la République Argentine, dit que parmi les simples charrues utilisées et qui sillonnent le sol vierge de ce pays, il peut mentionner celle provenant de la fabrique "Collins" comme une des plus appréciées. Les charrues "Howard," "Avery" et "Osborn" sont aussi employées en grande quantité. Les charrues à 2 ou 3 socs sont fournies par "Collins," "Avery," "Sims" et "Jeffries," et "Howard." Les moissonneuses sont de types différents. Parmi les plus populaires sont "McCormick," "Buckeye," "Walter A. Wood," "Deering," "Osborne" (Etats-Unis), "Hornsby" et "Reliance."

Le Consul Belge à Buenos-Ayres, en parlant des charrues dit que la simple charrue, "sulky," a été considérablement employée depuis les dernières années. C'est un instrument puissant avec une force de résistance telle qu'il peut labourer une terre couverte de paille et d'herbes sauvages. Son prix, toutefois, est quelque peu élevé, étant de 60 à 70 piastres en or.

## STATISTIQUE DE LA POPULATION DE BUENOS-AYRES.

La municipalité de Buenos-Ayres publie mensuellement une démographie de la population de la commune. Les chiffres pour le mois d'avril 1899 viennent d'être reçus et sont très intéressants. La population de la République Argentine, en ce moment, est évaluée à 774,000 habitants. L'élément étranger paraît augmenter continuellement en nombre aussi bien qu'en influence.

Les naissances pendant le mois d'avril se chiffraient à 2,690 et les décès à 1,109. La mortalité chez les enfants a été très grande, et en incluant les mort-nés, on constatait 419 morts au dessous de 5 ans. Parmi les adultes, 167 décès sont attribués aux épidémies, aux maladies contagieuses et aux affections pulmonaires.

En ce qui concerne les naissances, le "Buenos Ayres Standard" dit qu'en dehors d'un total de 2,690 naissances pas moins de 1,444 sont nés de parents étrangers et 331 de pères argentins et de mères étrangères. Le chiffre des enfants nés de parents argentins s'élève à 318, une petite fraction du tout.

Un autre point très important est que parmi les décès, plus d'une moitié sont Argentins, par conséquent les décès et les naissances réunis tendent à éliminer l'élément indigène et à ce compte un changement surprenant dans la population de la génération future doit certainement se produire.

## CONDITIONS DE L'AGRICULTURE—PERSPECTIVES COMMERCIALES.

Le Consul Anglais à Buenos-Ayres, dans son rapport annuel de 1898 (Série annuelle, No. 2219), observe que l'année a été bonne tant au point de vue de l'agriculture de la République qu'à celui du prix payé pour le blé. Il ajoute que la récolte des blés pour l'année 1898-99 a été magnifique, et quoiqu'il soit très difficile de donner d'une manière exacte le montant du chargement à ce moment-là (mars 1899), il est estimé qu'un surplus de 1,500,000 tonnes pourrait être exporté en 1899, après avoir fait la part de la consommation du pays.

Le premier juin 1899, le Comité National d'Agriculture a publié un rapport statistique de la dernière récolte des blés qui montre que vers la fin de mai, la moisson, après le battage du blé, était de 1,834,067 tonnes. Il était aussi établi qu'il fallait tenir compte du blé non battu, ce qui augmenterait facilement la récolte à plus de 2,000,000 de tonnes, et des avis privés indiqueraient que 2,000,000 de tonnes n'étaient pas une juste estimation.

Le rapport publié donne les chiffres suivants:

	Surface en hectares.	Rendement en tonnes.	Evaluation moyenne en kilogs.
Buenos-Ayres.....	611,697	602,093	1,177
Santa Fé.....	981,013	763,655	778
Cordoba.....	368,698	340,711	929
Entre Rios.....	112,962	117,608	863
Total.....	2,102,370	1,824,067	3,777

Par décret du 8 mai 1899, un service pour l'inspection du blé et du maïs a été organisé par le Gouvernement de la République Argentine, dans les ports de Buenos-Ayres, La Plata, Bahía Blanca, Rosario, San Nicolas et Villa Constitución. Ce service a été établi en vue de certifier que les grains remplissaient les conditions nécessaires pour la transportation et l'exportation sur les marchés étrangers.

L'inspection ne sera pas obligatoire et n'aura lieu que quand les propriétaires et les consignataires le demanderont et sur le paiement d'une somme de 10 centavos par 1,000 kilogs.

Le préambule du Décret indique que son objet est de régler les négociations et d'empêcher autant que possible les mesures restrictives qui pourraient arrêter l'exportation des grains sur les marchés étrangers et finalement pour encourager la production des grains de première qualité dans l'Argentine.

Il est bien entendu que les inspections en ce moment étant limitées au blé et au maïs, ont pour principal but de certifier officiellement que ces produits sont sains, secs et propres.

Le rapport du Consul anglais, ci-dessus mentionné, commente à ce sujet sur le progrès qui a été fait et qui continue dans l'amélioration de l'élevage des bestiaux dans la République Argentine; il représente que les éleveurs de bétail de la Grande Bretagne feront bien de maintenir très haut la qualité des animaux qu'ils exportent dans ce pays, parce que de magnifiques bêtes sont élevées dans de nombreuses fermes et sont dans certains cas aussi bonnes que celles importées.

Il ajoute que, pendant quelque temps, la République Argentine sera un excellent marché pour les éleveurs de bétail et de montons, principalement ces derniers, et pour cette raison les producteurs anglais devront apporter tous leurs soins dans le choix des animaux qu'ils exporteront, s'ils veulent maintenir leur renommée sur le marché.

MM. GIBSON FRÈRES, de Buenos-Ayres, dans une circulaire datée du 1<sup>er</sup> juin, estiment l'exportation de la laine de la "River Plate" pour la dernière saison à 555,000 balles.

Cette compagnie anticipe, avec de justes raisons, que le prix de la bonne laine ne sera sujet, pour la saison prochaine, à aucun changement, vu son excellente qualité, le croisement des races et la diminution de ces espèces de laine dans la République Argentine, depuis la préférence des qualités inférieures et du grand décroissement de ces produits en Australie, dû à la mortalité chez les montons.

Naturellement les États-Unis étant un pays qui produit et exporte les céréales, aucunes n'ont été reçues de la Plata. Mais parmi les produits considérés comme agricoles et qui ont été exportés aux États-Unis des ports de la République Argentine pendant le premier trimestre de l'année 1899, on comprend les suivants:

De Buenos-Ayres: Laine, \$201,935.91; cuirs séchés, \$667,676.46; tasayo, \$59,329.05; peau de chèvre, \$47,894.03; autre produit animal, \$25,205.06; veau, \$10,789.03; mouton, \$4,247.30; carpincho, \$2,100; cerf, \$1,245.75; chevreau, \$933.66; poil, \$20,264.18; os, \$17,517.35; autre produit animal, \$27,412.98; plumes d'autruche, \$2,288.76.

De Rosario: Cuirs séchés, \$326,549.89; laine, \$108,742.25; peau de chèvre, \$199,030.81; autres peaux, \$22,744.38; poil, \$21,769.55; autre produit animal, \$711.53; plumes, \$550.53. Total pour les 2 rapports, \$1,768,938.46.

#### RICHESSES MINÉRALES DANS LA PROVINCE DE SAN LUIS— CONVENTION TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE.

Un rapport de Mr. SIMON MANY, conseiller du commerce extérieur de la France à Mercedes, donne les informations suivantes :

“ Un minerai très riche en manganèse a été découvert dernièrement dans la province de San Luis. Un ingénieur belge qui s'est rendu sur les lieux a trouvé qu'il existe dans cette région des carrières d'où l'on peut extraire un beau marbre tacheté de rouge vif. Quelques-uns de ces marbres sont expédiés en France où ils sont, dit-on, très appréciés. Quelques-unes de ces carrières donnent de très gros bénéfices, d'autres ne sont pas exploitées, faute de ressources.”

Le même fonctionnaire français dit aussi dans le compte-rendu ci-dessus qu'une convention télégraphique a été signée (ad referendum) entre la République Argentine et le Brésil. Cette convention comporte l'établissement d'une ligne directe entre Buenos-Ayres et Puerto Alegre et améliorera sensiblement le service télégraphique international et on espère les tarifs.

#### CONSTRUCTION D'UN MOULIN À PAPIER.

Le “ Wood Pulp News,” New York, à la date du 29 juin, 1899, dit que les bruits qui courent depuis quelques temps au sujet de la construction d'un moulin à papier près de Buenos-Ayres semblent ne pas être sans fondement. L'endroit choisi est sur la rive droite du “ Río Paraná ” et dans le voisinage immédiat de la ligne principale du chemin de fer de Buenos-Ayres à Rio de Janeiro; de cette façon la transportation au moulin et vice versa, par terre et par eau, sera facile. Les travaux projetés doivent être entrepris par une compagnie formée au capital de 180,000 dollars (or). Les machines doivent être des plus modernes et capables de fournir journellement 20 tonnes de papier pour les journaux, papier à écrire, et différentes autres qualités. Les promoteurs espèrent non seulement suppléer aux demandes locales mais encore exporter une grande quantité aux républiques voisines.

## BRÉSIL.

#### COMMERCE AVEC LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE EN 1899.

D'après les statistiques fournies par le Gouvernement Britannique pour le premier semestre de l'année 1899, concernant le commerce entre le Royaume-Uni et le Brésil, les chiffres suivants sont obtenus. Dans le rapport anglais les chiffres sont donnés en livres sterling, mais

sont ici convertis en valeurs courantes des Etats-Unis, 1 livre sterling équivalant à \$4.866. Exportations au Brésil: Tissus de coton de toutes sortes, éru, blanchi, imprimé, teint ou de couleur, \$2,770,705.25; diminution comparée avec les mêmes mois de 1898, \$1,028,253.92. Tissus de chanvre, fil de chanvre, manufactures de toile et tissus de laine, \$1,048,073.14; diminution, \$258,267.81. Manufactures métalliques, comprenant tous les articles de cuire ouvré, quincaillerie, contellerie, fer en barres, fer rond ou carré, fer forgé, rails en acier ou en fer, fil de fer et d'acier, cercles de fer, fer en plaques, plaques de métal pour les chaudières et armures, plaques galvanisées, fer-blanc, plaques de fer-blanc, fer et acier combinés, \$1,673,597; diminution, \$293,541.45. Cuir pour la fabrication des chaussures, \$115,854.59; diminution, \$59,053.77. Ciment et faïence, \$222,308.08; augmentation, \$32,102.69. Huile de graines, \$16,007.14; diminution, \$5,756.48.

Les importations du Brésil pendant cette période furent les suivantes: Sucre non raffiné, \$138,632.34; le même article pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1898, \$665,985.09; différence, \$527,352.75. Café, \$363,757.83; en 1898, \$511,221.96; diminution, \$147,464.13. Coton brut, \$17,712.24; en 1898, \$402,150.57; diminution, \$384,438.33.

#### COMMERCE AVEC LES ETATS-UNIS.

Mr. FRANK D. HILL, Consul des Etats-Unis à Santos, dans un rapport au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington (*Advance Sheets Consular Reports*, No. 473), donne un tableau statistique des exportations et des importations entre les Etats-Unis et le Brésil pendant une période de dix ans. D'après cette statistique il paraît que tandis que les exportations du Brésil aux Etats-Unis ont diminué, les importations des Etats-Unis sont restées comparativement stationnaires. En effet, pendant les années 1891 et 1894, les exportations des Etats-Unis excédaient celles de l'année 1898 et surpassaient d'environ \$13,000,000 le prix moyen des dix années entières. Mr. HILL explique que la principale raison de cette situation est l'embarras financier résultant de la diminution constante dans le prix du café. Cela a non seulement réduit la valeur des exportations du Brésil, mais a donné aux marchands du pays moins d'argent pour acheter à l'étranger. Il est bon d'observer toutefois que si les Etats-Unis n'ont rien perdu dans leur commerce avec le Brésil, la Grande-Bretagne a éprouvé une perte considérable en comparaison de son commerce de l'année 1893.

Dans le cours de son rapport, Mr. HILL fait observer que, pour augmenter le commerce avec l'Amérique du Sud, il faudrait que le peuple des Etats-Unis employât les mêmes moyens que les Européens: Bâteaux à vapeur sous le contrôle absolu des Américains et maisons d'affaires dirigées par les Américains. Une fois que les Etats-Unis seront dans les mêmes conditions que les Européens, ils pourront être abandonnés à leur propre initiation.



**LA COMPAGNIE TÉLÉGRAPHIQUE L'AMAZONE.**

L'« *Electrical World and Engineer*, » du 22 juillet, rapporte qu'après s'être heurtée à de nombreux obstacles, la Compagnie Télégraphique l'Amazons s'est décidée à abandonner le câble sous-marin dans le fleuve des Amazones, reliant Para à Manaos. Toutefois cette compagnie est en train de construire sur terre une ligne télégraphique qui desservira les mêmes pays. Cette compagnie a émis des obligations pour la somme de \$600,000 à 6 pour cent, et on dit que le Gouvernement brésilien lui a garanti une subvention annuelle de \$85,625 pendant douze ans.

**MACHINES POUR FABRIQUER LA GLACE À PARA.**

On lit dans le Journal du Commerce de New York du 21 juillet que MM. G. AMSINCK et Cie. se préparent à embarquer pour Para tout un système complet de machines capables de fabriquer 10 tonnes de glace par jour. Ces machines, une fois montées et mises en mouvement seront les sixièmes déjà en usage dans cette ville, et toutes combinées produiront journellement 40 tonnes. En ce moment une quantité considérable de glace est embarquée de Para sur les différents points du Brésil. La perspective commerciale pour cette industrie dans les autres parts de la République est très encourageante.

**EXPLOITATION DES PLANTES TEXTILES.**

Le consul de France à Rio de Janeiro a adressé à l'office national du commerce extérieur des remarques fort intéressantes au sujet de l'exploitation au Brésil des plantes textiles et principalement de l'agave américain.

« Les feuilles de cette plante, dit-il, atteignent parfois une dimension de 2 mètres et 25 centimètres de largeur. Elles sont formées d'une série multiple de fibres allongées, fortes et très fines et d'une quantité de pulpe charnue. Quand elles sont vertes, elles pèsent dix fois plus que quand elles sont sèches. Une feuille convenablement préparée, ajoute ce fonctionnaire, produit en fibres les deux tiers de son poids, et il est à remarquer que les feuilles à moitié vertes se préparent plus facilement et produisent des fibres plus pures et plus consistantes. Ces plantes, cultivées dans un terrain propice, peuvent fournir des coupes après une année. La reproduction de l'agave se fait par le système d'assolements et les meilleurs terrains sont les terrains calcaires et poreux. Il est nécessaire, toutefois, pour cultiver ces sortes de plantes d'avoir les capitaines nécessaires et des connaissances générales de chimie agricole très approfondies. »

**MARCHÉ POUR LA MIROITERIE.**

Le Consul-Général de France à Rio de Janeiro, dans son rapport annuel récemment publié à Paris par le Gouvernement Français, dit

que la vente des miroirs dans tout le Brésil est très importante. D'après les statistiques fournies par ce fonctionnaire, les importations des miroirs et des glaces étamées en 1898 étaient: d'Allemagne, 326,576 kilogrammes; d'Angleterre, 49,667 kilogs; de France, 35,273 kilogs et de Belgique, 26,260 kilogs. Les cadres de qualité supérieure proviennent généralement de France; les plus ordinaires viennent d'Allemagne. La dorure allemande est considérée de beaucoup inférieure à celle française, et c'est pourquoi les miroirs d'Allemagne sont meilleur marché et se vendent plus promptement quoiqu'ils fassent moins d'usage. Les droits de douane pour les cadres et la miroiterie qui ont moins de 15 décimètres carrés sont de 1 franc à 1.30 francs par kilog, suivant la richesse des cadres. Au-dessus de cette dimension le droit est de 50 pour cent "ad valorem." Les droits pour les cadres confectionnés ou la bordure sont de 2 francs par kilogramme.

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## CHILI.

### INSTALLATION DE LA LUMIÈRE ÉLECTRIQUE À PUNTA ARENAS.

Un article récemment publié dans le "Chilian Times" à "Valparaiso, Chili," contient des illustrations et quelques brèves explications au sujet de l'installation de machines pour la production de l'électricité à Punta Arenas. Ces machines ont été installées et mises en mouvement par la "Westinghouse Electrical and Manufacturing Co." pour la "Compañía Luz Eléctrica de Punta Arenas," une société de capitalistes de la localité.

Cette usine est la plus au sud de toutes les compagnies électriques du pays et a été créée tout d'abord dans l'intention d'éclairer les rues et les maisons de la ville.

Un contrat a été passé depuis avec la municipalité à l'effet de fournir 250 lampes électriques d'une force de 32 bougies chacune. A cet effet, des machines supplémentaires ont été commandées, les premières n'étant pas suffisamment fortes pour éclairer complètement les maisons et les rues.

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## CUBA.

### INSTALLATION DE MACHINES ÉLECTRIQUES À MATANZAS.

Une dépêche reçue de Racine, Wisconsin, annonce que MM. MATTHEW SLUSH, A. W. BISHOP et d'autres représentants officiels de la "Milwaukee, Racine and Kenosha Electric Railway Co.," ont obtenu une option pour six mois d'un terrain évalué à 750,000 dollars où ils se proposent de construire une usine pour la production de l'électricité destinée à l'éclairage, un immense entrepôt et un tramway électrique partant de Matanzas et desservant les localités voisines.

## DÉCOUVERTE DU CAOUTHOUC.

Le "India Rubber World" du 1<sup>er</sup> juillet, dit que Mr. le Commandant J. ORTON KERBY qui est revenu récemment d'un voyage à Cuba, a la ferme conviction qu'il a trouvé dans cette île le véritable caoutchouc de l'Amérique Centrale (*Castilloa Elastica*) poussant à l'état sauvage. Cet officier fait aussi remarquer que les conditions pour la culture du caoutchouc sont plus favorables à Cuba qu'au Mexique ou au Nicaragua.

Mr. le Major KERBY a poursuivi ses investigations dans l'intérieur du pays beaucoup plus loin que ses prédécesseurs, ayant été aidé dans ses recherches par le Gouvernement de Washington qui avait mis à sa disposition les autorités militaires des États-Unis dans cette île. Il ajoute qu'il a particulièrement remarqué le "*Castilloa Elastica*" sur les côtes du sud de ce pays, pendant que de vieux résidents, gens dignes de foi, l'informaient que ces arbres devaient s'y trouver en abondance. En outre, on affirmait que dans les années précédentes, le caoutchouc (*goma*) figurait dans les exportations, allant vraisemblablement sur les marchés espagnols.

## NICARAGUA.

## PRODUCTION DU CAOUTHOUC.

Les demandes croissantes du caoutchouc dans le monde et les nombreux emplois auxquels cet article peut-être adapté après avoir été purifié, apportent peu à peu une révolution dans les méthodes de le recueillir et de préparer la matière première. Jusque dans ces dernières années, tous les caoutchoucs reçus dans les ports des États-Unis, provenaient d'arbres poussant à l'état sauvage. Ces sortes d'arbres étaient suffisamment abondants pour les Indiens qui en ramassaient les produits seulement quand ils en avaient besoin. Personne alors n'avait pensé à le cultiver, l'approvisionnement suffisait aux demandes. Mais l'épuisement partiel des produits de la forêt démontra qu'il était nécessaire que l'on fit quelque chose pour suppléer aux provisions fournies par les Indiens. Les exportations de Caoutchouc brut du Nicaragua en 1897, d'après les statistiques obtenues par le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères de la Grande Bretagne, se montaient à cette époque à 159,600 livres, évaluées à 78,856 dollars, soit environ 50 cents par livre; et on disait que la récolte de 1898 était supérieure en quantité et beaucoup plus grande en valeur, mais aucune statistique exacte ne peut être obtenue.

Plusieurs citoyens des États-Unis ont habité le Nicaragua pendant ces quelques dernières années dans l'intention de s'occuper de la culture du caoutchouc. Un de ces pionniers, Mr. G. C. COSSIT, revenu récemment aux États-Unis, rapporte que la perspective pour une grande

augmentation dans la production du caoutchouc est très belle. D'un rapport de Mr. COSSIT, inséré le 14 juillet dans la "New Orleans Picayune," nous extrayons quelques faits très intéressants:

"Commençant à Bluefields et se dirigeant vers le nord, il y a, dans le pays, une succession de petites rivières intérieures avec une profondeur moyenne de 5 pieds, qui serpentent à travers les îles jusqu'au pied de la colline Cukira. Un de ces cours d'eau suit le pied des montagnes et donne un excellent drainage. La terre drainée par ce courant a été trouvée précisément propre à la plantation du caoutchouc et est, petit à petit, choisie par les explorateurs étrangers. Le défrichement est probablement l'entreprise la plus coûteuse, mais les arbres sauvages qu'on y trouve fournissent presque assez de semence pour toute la plantation.

"Le planteur qui désire acheter des bien-fonds s'adresse à l'agent du cadastre (*jefe público*) et paie 1 dollar chaque "manzana" (environ 2 acres). L'arpentage de la terre est fait par les agents du Gouvernement à un prix modéré. Le prix moyen du défrichement d'une manzana est 15 dollars en or, et environ 100 manzanas dans chaque plantation sont ordinairement défrichées la première année. Quelques planteurs défrichent seulement un terrain suffisant pour planter les jeunes arbres, pendant que d'autres ont défriché toutes les broussailles et semé les graines. Sans aucun renseignement ni aucun moyen pratique pour les guider, le travail des premiers planteurs de caoutchouc a été entièrement un travail d'expérience. Mr. COSSIT a environ 25 manzanas cultivées, les arbres rangés par file et à une distance de 10 pieds. Mr. HENRY WALDRON, du Canada, possède une terre de 100 manzanas plus élevée sur la montagne et plantée d'arbres provenant de cette semence. Ce planteur a obtenu un succès, ne perdant que 10 à 15 pour cent de sa plantation originale. Messrs. JONES et TOWNSEND, associés avec la Manhattan Rubber Manufacturing Company, de New-York, ont une troupe d'hommes engagés à défricher une étendue de 500 manzanas et espèrent planter 1,000,000 d'arbres. Il y a, en outre, un nombre de petites plantations contenant chacune de 800 à 1,800 arbres.

"Une des questions les plus importantes dans l'industrie de la plantation du caoutchouc, et qui n'est pas encore résolue, est l'âge auquel un arbre peut être saigné sans endommager sa production. L'opinion générale est que dix années sont amplement nécessaires pour permettre à un arbre d'atteindre 10 pouces de diamètre et de subir cette opération. Il a été aussi démontré que les arbres plantés en plein soleil poussent plus rapidement que ceux exposés à l'ombre. Aussi les arbres cultivés dans un terrain propice produisent en six années.

"Jusqu'ici les planteurs ont recueilli très peu de caoutchouc des arbres cultivés, mais en ont obtenu de très grandes quantités des arbres sauvages non coupés. Après la première incision chaque arbre rapportera environ une livre sans être endommagé; et au fur et à mesure qu'il avance en âge le fluide devient plus abondant et se monte quelquefois à 3 ou 4 livres. Les planteurs espèrent que les effets de la culture seront d'augmenter le rendement annuel par arbre.

“ Le système employé pour préparer la matière brute est très imparfait, mais même dans ces conditions le conteneur du Nicaragua rapporte un prix plus élevé qu'aucune autre variété, excepté celui provenant de Para, Brésil.”

Les planteurs du Nicaragua ont l'intention d'adopter les méthodes employées dans le Para et dans la Bolivie, et dont on trouvera la description publiée dans le BULLETIN MENSUEL de décembre 1897, page 902.

## PARAGUAY.

### PRODUCTION DU SUCRE.

MR. WILLIAM HARRISON, Vice-Consul des Etats-Unis à Asuncion, a soumis le 17 mai, au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington, un rapport relatif à la production de la canne à sucre et à sa fabrication. Il relate que la culture de la canne à sucre au Paraguay se fait sur une plus vaste échelle qu'autrefois. Chaque tige a environ 2 pouces de diamètre et 6 à 8 pieds de hauteur. Une tonne de canne à sucre produira 35 à 40 gallons de jus et chaque gallon donnera net 1 livre et  $\frac{1}{2}$  de sucre. La canne est d'une bonne espèce et fait de l'excellent sucre et rhum. Il n'y a qu'un seul moulin de ce genre dans la République, et comme il lui est impossible de suffire aux demandes, l'importation du sucre est très grande, la plus forte quantité provenant de France. Le sucre fabriqué dans le pays se vend très cher, et avec des moulins semblables à ceux des Etats-Unis et des ouvriers habiles on pourrait facilement perfectionner la qualité. La main-d'œuvre est très bon marché, étant donnée la difficulté que l'on a à se procurer de bons et habiles ouvriers.

Mr. HARRISON donne une évaluation de ce que coûte une plantation de cannes à sucre. Pour la première année, le capital requis est évalué à \$20,240; pour la seconde à \$96,960 et pour la troisième à \$20,800; soit un total de \$138,000. Dans cette somme sont comprises toutes les dépenses, 3 lieues de terre labourable, une voie ferrée de 8 milles, 2 locomobiles, 50 vagonnets, une chaloupe à vapeur, un quai, des barges, construction des bâtiments, machines, chevaux et autres animaux, chariots, dépenses des bureaux, fret, assurances, etc. \* \* \* Il estime que la plantation produira 40,000 arrobas (100,000 livres) de sucre à \$1.10 = 40,000 dollars; et 6,000 dames-jeannes à \$3 = 18,000 dollars; soit un total de \$62,000. De ces chiffres il faut que l'on déduise \$22,800 de mains-d'œuvre (qu'il détaille) et \$27,544 pour les intérêts, ce qui donne un profit net de \$11,650 à la fin de la troisième année.

Mr. JOHN RUFFIN, Consul des Etats-Unis à Asuncion, ajoute au rapport de Mr. HARRISON, les renseignements suivants :

“ Le moulin à sucre, décrit plus haut, a été subventionné par le Gouvernement par l'intermédiaire de la Banque agricole pour une somme de

\$260,000 en billets de banque. Il est situé sur la rivière Tebicuary et le 'Paraguayan Central Railway;' de cette façon le transport est facile. Il est éclairé à l'électricité et la compagnie y a dépensé un capital de 1,306,500 dollars. Un rapport fourni par cette fabrique de sucre affirme qu'une valeur de 100,000 dollars (or) de sucre est importée chaque année dans le pays. La compagnie a besoin d'argent pour conduire ses affaires, son capital paraissant avoir été dépensé pour la construction et les frais d'installation de l'usine. Une entreprise de ce genre serait profitable au Paraguay parce qu'elle n'aurait presque pas de concurrence, et dans le cas où l'approvisionnement dépasserait les demandes, le jus pourrait être employé à faire du caña (eau de vie) qui est la boisson en vogue dans le pays."

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## PÉROU.

### L'INDUSTRIE MINIÈRE.

L'exploitation des mines paraît constituer pour le Pérou une réserve inépuisable pour l'activité industrielle des hommes d'entreprise et offrir un emploi séduisant aux capitaux nationaux et étrangers. D'après "le Nouveau Monde," les gisements métallifères sont signalés de tous les côtés; les mines d'or, d'argent, de charbon, auxquelles viennent s'ajouter les sources de pétrole, constituent un ensemble d'intérêts importants. Du recensement général publié, il résulte que le nombre des mines en exploitation et déclarées, suivant les lois du pays, s'élève à 2,314, mais ce nombre est loin de renfermer la totalité des mines existant au Pérou, puisque chaque jour on en découvre de nouvelles.

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## SAINT DOMINGUE (RÉPUBLIQUE DOMINICAINE).

### ASSASSINAT DU PRÉSIDENT HEUREAUX.

Le 26 juillet 1899, le Général ULYSSES HEREAUX, Président de la République Dominicaine, Saint Domingue, a été assassiné à Moca, ville située à 40 milles environ au sud de Puerto Plata. Le Président était sur le point de partir pour Santiago et se trouvait assis sous la véranda d'une maison de la rue Colon, causant avec des amis, quand il fut tué. Un boulet l'atteignit mortellement au cœur, le tuant instantanément, l'autre frappa à mort un vieillard assis à ses côtés. Le crime fut commis avec une telle rapidité que les personnes présentes n'eurent pas le temps de s'interposer pour l'empêcher. Le Général VENCESLAO FIGUERO, Vice-Président de la République, a assumé immédiatement le pouvoir.

ULYSSES HEREAUX naquit à Puerto Plata sur la côte occidentale de Saint Domingue, en 1846. A 16 ans il s'engagea comme simple soldat,

mais fut bientôt nommé commandant du district de Puerto Plata. Il combattit pendant la guerre avec l'Espagne de 1868 à 1874, fut exilé deux fois pour raisons politiques et vint pendant deux ans dans la vie privée. En 1878 il fut chargé de réprimer une insurrection espagnole, fut blessé plusieurs fois et faillit être assassiné. En 1882 il succéda comme Président de la République à FERNANDO A. MERINO et fut réélu quatre fois, la dernière en 1898. En 1894, il fit échouer une conspiration qu'un nommé BOBADILLA avait tramé contre lui et dont le résultat devait être sa mort.

#### DROITS PAYABLES EN OR.

Le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères à Washington a reçu un rapport de Mr. MAXWELL, Consul-Général des Etats-Unis à Saint Domingue, daté du 24 juin 1899 l'informant que la Chambre des Députés Dominicaine a décrété que les droits d'importation devront être acquittés en or des Etats-Unis ou en monnaie courante de la République; 6 dollars de cette monnaie devront être considérés l'équivalent de 1 dollar en or. L'ancien droit était de 2 dollars pour 1 dollar d'or. Cet arrêté devait avoir son effet le 1<sup>er</sup> juillet 1899.

### ETATS-UNIS.

#### IMPORTATIONS ET EXPORTATIONS PENDANT L'ANNÉE FISCALE TERMINÉE LE 30 JUIN 1899.

Le chef des travaux de statistique au Ministère des Finances à Washington vient de terminer le tableau détaillé des exportations et des importations des Etats-Unis pendant l'année fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899, et un sommaire de ce travail a été mis le 27 juillet à la disposition du public. Les chiffres contenus dans ce document, comparés à ceux de l'année dernière sont du plus grand intérêt. Les importations ont augmenté de plus de \$81,000,000, tandis que les exportations ont diminué de \$4,000,000. Les importations pour 1898 et 1899 ont été divisées en différentes classes et comme il suit:

#### IMPORTATIONS.

	1898.	1899.
Provisions de bouche et bétail .....	\$181,205,844	\$211,869,918
Matières premières employées dans la préparation des produits finis triés du pays.....	201,428,375	221,998,377
Articles entièrement ou partiellement manufacturés dans les arts mécaniques et les manufactures .....	58,584,559	60,712,518
Articles manufacturés pour la consommation .....	97,382,404	108,621,406
Articles de luxe .....	77,448,472	93,914,635
Total des importations.....	616,049,654	697,116,854
Rapport.....	616,049,654	697,116,854
Proportion des articles libres de droit .....	47.3	43.07
Impôts perçus .....	\$149,819,594	\$206,507,812
Marchandises étrangères en magasin .....	\$57,726,994	\$33,956,021

## EXPORTATIONS.

	1898.	1899.
Produits agricoles.....	\$853,683,570	\$784,999,009
Produits des manufactures.....	290,697,354	338,667,794
Produits des mines.....	19,410,707	28,832,547
Produits provenant de la p�che.....	5,435,483	6,025,446
Divers.....	3,164,628	3,281,134
<b>Total des exportations du pays.....</b>	<b>1,210,291,913</b>	<b>1,204,123,134</b>
Marchandises �trang�res r�port�es.....	21,190,417	23,082,285
<b>Total des exportations.....</b>	<b>1,231,482,330</b>	<b>1,227,205,419</b>

Le tableau ci-dessous donne les importations et les exportations (en grandes divisions).

	Importations.		Exportations.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Europe.....	\$305,931,691	\$353,885,064	\$974,806,245	\$936,781,169
Am�rique du Nord.....	91,376,807	112,133,871	139,627,841	157,931,409
Am�rique du Sud.....	92,091,694	86,576,020	33,821,701	35,690,972
Asie.....	52,594,593	107,081,421	44,797,791	48,360,191
Oc�anie.....	26,859,290	26,997,508	22,063,022	29,374,093
Afrique.....	7,193,639	10,442,970	17,515,730	18,594,424

Les importations et les exportations en ce qui concerne les pays compris sous le titre "Am rique du Nord" sont comme suit :

	Importations.		Exportations.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
Am�rique Anglaise.....	\$32,242,601	\$31,586,332	\$84,889,819	\$89,573,609
Bermuda.....	459,282	494,812	966,915	1,065,388
Antilles Anglaises.....	10,632,187	14,150,482	8,386,240	8,751,817
B�lize.....	171,290	198,203	576,111	499,839
<b>Total Anglais.....</b>	<b>43,505,990</b>	<b>46,429,829</b>	<b>94,839,085</b>	<b>99,890,653</b>
Mexique.....	19,004,861	22,994,091	21,206,939	25,489,281
Costa Rica.....	2,732,426	3,581,809	1,529,161	1,241,191
Guatemala.....	1,854,303	2,111,264	1,291,714	1,102,779
Honduras.....	784,741	911,849	752,202	831,998
Nicaragua.....	1,095,865	1,514,030	1,049,505	1,186,950
Salvador.....	799,145	1,085,703	796,575	625,414
Haïti.....	876,582	826,426	2,968,579	2,455,966
Saint Domingue.....	2,382,139	3,125,095	1,151,258	1,104,513
Cuba.....	15,232,477	25,411,410	9,561,656	18,615,707
Porto Rico.....	2,414,356	3,179,827	1,505,948	2,645,848
Antilles �noises.....	327,759	599,328	707,622	498,066
Antilles Hollandaises.....	174,243	246,962	544,462	474,435
Antilles Fran�aises.....	30,888	28,735	1,617,130	1,342,984
Miquelon, Langley.....	161,030	80,283	205,065	194,624

Le commerce ext rieur des Etats-Unis avec les pays de l'Am rique du Sud est comme suit :

	Importations aux Etats-Unis.		Exportations des Etats-Unis.	
	1898.	1899.	1898.	1899.
R�publique Argentine.....	\$5,913,879	\$5,112,561	\$6,429,070	\$9,563,510
Bolivie.....			20,673	31,298
Bresil.....	61,750,399	57,875,747	13,317,036	12,240,036
Chili.....	3,736,397	2,991,089	2,351,727	2,107,124
Colombie.....	5,183,604	5,126,731	3,277,257	3,042,094
Ecuador.....	765,590	1,054,653	855,193	882,621
Guyane Anglaise.....	3,060,968	3,590,297	1,747,375	1,749,545
Guyane Hollandaise.....	1,457,135	1,651,009	408,414	443,757
Guyane Fran�aise.....	12,551	37,929	150,041	170,090
Paraguay.....		190	699	10,751
P�rou.....	714,247	1,496,978	1,392,695	1,325,650
Uruguay.....	1,772,480	1,281,109	1,214,248	1,242,822
Venezuela.....	7,722,564	6,507,847	2,716,261	2,851,634



En 1898, des marchandises montant à la somme de \$1,010 ont été exportées aux Isles Falkland, mais en 1899 aucun commerce n'a eu lieu entre ces îles et les États-Unis.

#### PRODUCTION DU THÉ.

Pendant la première semaine de juillet, les fonctionnaires du Ministère de l'Agriculture à Washington furent informés que du thé produit aux États-Unis avait été vendu dans la ville de New-York pour la première fois dans les annales du pays. Ce thé provenait d'une plantation dirigée par M<sup>r</sup> le D<sup>r</sup> CHARLES U. SHEPARD et qui est située à Pinehurst, à 20 milles de Charleston, Caroline du Sud, où la culture de cette plante a été expérimentée pendant les 20 dernières années. Cette ferme fut installée tout d'abord par le ministère de l'agriculture qui n'a pas cessé depuis de lui prêter son concours de différentes manières. Pendant les dernières années, M<sup>r</sup> le D<sup>r</sup> SHEPARD a réussi à faire pousser une petite récolte qui fut mise, dans la ferme, à la disposition des consommateurs. La dernière récolte cependant étant trop abondante pour être distribuée séparément, fut envoyée à New-York, vendue en gros et placée depuis dans la vente en détail. Il est démontré que le thé Américain rapporte un prix plus élevé que les variétés les plus rares provenant de la Chine ou du Japon.

Quoique le thé qui croît au Japon et en Chine ait l'avantage du climat et de l'expérience, M<sup>r</sup>. le D<sup>r</sup>. SHEPARD a su profiter de quelques conditions existant seulement aux États-Unis qui le mettent sur le même pied que ses compétiteurs étrangers. Les cultivateurs japonais et chinois sont obligés d'avoir recours à des moyens très dispendieux pour emballer et embarquer leurs produits, tels que de mettre le thé dans des feuilles d'étain très épaisses, l'entourer de nattes et autres enveloppes afin de préserver le goût naturel et les autres qualités de la plante. Il est avéré qu'un voyage à travers l'Océan est très dommageable au thé et lui enlève beaucoup de son arôme, de sa douceur, tout en le détériorant de différentes autres manières.

Il y a quelques années, le Ministère de l'Agriculture distribua une quantité d'arbrisseaux dans les différents États du Sud dans le but d'encourager la culture du thé. Personne alors, excepté M<sup>r</sup>. le D<sup>r</sup>. SHEPARD, n'avait songé à entreprendre sérieusement ce travail. Il commença d'abord sur une petite échelle et, avec les moyens mis à sa disposition, parvint à établir une industrie qui lui rapporte maintenant un bon profit. Parmi les problèmes à résoudre était celui de faire pousser le thé dans un district où il ne tombait pendant toute l'année que 56 pouces d'eau, tandis que les autorités asiatiques prétendaient que les arbrisseaux exigeaient 80 à 100 pouces de pluie par an et qu'il était préférable qu'il plût pendant la première partie de l'année que durant la dernière. Quelques-uns des meilleurs districts à thé en Asie ont 120 pouces de pluie dans l'année. M<sup>r</sup>. SHEPARD trouva encore que les autorités s'accordaient à dire que la température ne devait jamais être au-dessous de 40° F., tandis qu'à Pinehurst on peut s'attendre à une température de

15° pendant l'hiver. Pour profiter autant que possible de la pluie et la distribner également, la terre est desséchée, profondément labourée, remuée et pulvérisée à une profondeur de 18 pouces; un système général de culture aidant plus tard à conserver au sol son humidité. Mr. le Dr. SHEPARD obtint de cette manière une humidité équivalente à 10 ou 15 pouces de pluie.

La question du travail fut un sérieux problème, car il était établi que pour cueillir une livre de thé dans la Caroline du Sud, cela coûterait huit fois plus qu'en Asie. On trouva aussi qu'il était nécessaire qu'on employât continuellement une assez grande quantité d'ouvriers pour cueillir les feuilles au fur et à mesure qu'elles mûrissaient. C'est alors que Mr. le Dr. SHEPARD eut l'idée de fonder une école (Kindergarten), invitant les enfants nègres à venir s'y instruire gratis. Il leur fit cueillir le thé et en échange leur enseigna à lire et à écrire, leur donnant, en sus de leur instruction, assez d'argent pour payer leur nourriture et leurs vêtements. Quelques-uns de ces enfants sont devenus suffisamment habiles, quoique aucun d'eux n'ait atteint l'habileté réputée du Japonais et du Chinois.

Mr. WILLIAM SAUNDERS, un horticulteur du Ministère de l'Agriculture, s'est rendu récemment dans cette ferme et, en soumettant son rapport, fait les remarques suivantes au sujet de la possibilité de l'industrie du thé aux Etats-Unis:

"Nul ne peut entreprendre cette culture avec succès s'il n'a l'expérience requise et s'il n'est pas à même d'appliquer dans tous leurs détails les moyens pratiques qui la gouvernent. C'est un travail spécial qui réclame une étude particulière, laquelle ne peut s'acquérir que sur le terrain où les opérations sont conduites. Il faut d'abord faire son apprentissage et s'initier au métier dans tous ses détails, depuis l'ensemencement de la graine jusqu'à l'emballage de la feuille manufacturée. Reste encore la question de la main-d'œuvre. Il est évident que l'industrie ne peut devenir profitable que si l'on prépare un article d'une qualité absolument supérieure, et pour atteindre ce résultat il est nécessaire que la cueillaison des feuilles soit exécutée avec plus de soins que quand on prépare un article inférieur, dans lequel entre des feuilles plus vieilles et moins tendres."

#### PRODUCTION DU CUIVRE PENDANT LES ANNÉES 1898 ET 1899.

La production du cuivre aux Etats-Unis pendant l'année 1898 a été la plus grande dont on ait jamais entendu parler. Les chiffres fournis par les producteurs s'élèvent à 239,241 "long tons," ou 535,900,232 livres de cuivre fin, soit 15,415 "long tons" ou 34,529,937 livres, ou 6.8 pour cent de plus que l'année 1897. L'augmentation a été proportionnellement à peu près la même que celle qui existait entre les années 1897 et 1896, mais a été considérablement moindre que celle de 1896 comparée aux années précédentes. Le Mexique et la Colombie Britannique ont exporté aux Etats-Unis, pendant l'année, sous la forme de lingots et pour être

affinés, 38,922,552 livres de cuivre. D'autre part, les exportations de l'année se sont montées à 133,822.68 "long tons" ou 299,765,054 livres, soit environ 55 pour cent de la production totale. La consommation, d'après ces chiffres approximatifs, montre une très légère différence avec celle des années antérieures.

Les différentes statistiques compilées par le "New York Metal Exchange," pendant le 1<sup>er</sup> semestre 1899, sont les suivantes:

Production du pays, d'après les calculs des producteurs, 124,487 "long tons," ou 278,850,880 livres; importation de l'étranger, net, 13,908 "long tons," ou 3,115,392 livres, soit un approvisionnement total de 138,395 "long tons," ou 309,966,272 livres. Les livraisons pour le premier semestre 1899 (en tonnes de 2,240 livres) ont été comme il suit:

Exportation du pays en Europe, 51,723 livres; exportation du pays dans l'Amérique Anglaise, 220 livres; exportation du pays au Mexique, 50 livres; sulfate de cuivre exporté (7,640 tonnes, à 25 pour cent), 1,910 livres, soit pour les exportations un total de 53,903 livres; les livraisons pour la consommation du pays, 72,000 livres, soit un total général de 125,903 livres. Si l'on compare les chiffres ci-dessus avec ceux du premier semestre de l'année 1898, on trouvera exactement une augmentation de 4,000 tonnes, mais si on les compare avec ceux du deuxième semestre de la même année, on constatera un surplus de 10,702 tonnes. L'exportation du sulfate de cuivre comparée avec celle de l'année 1898 pour la même période, montre une augmentation de 820 tonnes. Les livraisons pour la consommation du pays ont été extrêmement nombreuses pendant le deuxième trimestre de cette année. Pendant le premier semestre de l'année 1899, elles se sont montées à 18,000 tonnes de plus que pendant la même période de l'année 1898 et à 12,000 tonnes de plus que pendant le deuxième semestre de cette année. Le surplus des livraisons était de 12,492 tonnes, la plus grande partie ayant été envoyée dans les nouvelles affineries.

Une des importations les plus extraordinaires de cuivre qui ait jamais eu lieu aux États-Unis, est celle de 9,999 sacs ou 250 tonnes de monnaie de cuivre que le vapeur *Cevic*, venant de l'Inde, a apportés dans le port de New York, le 25 juillet 1899, pour être consignés dans la maison "Oxford Copper Co." Ce cuivre, ayant plus de valeur comme lingot que comme monnaie, sera fondu.

On dit que quand le cuivre était coté à 10 cents, il était plus profitable de le monnayer pour le gouvernement Indien, mais étant donné le prix actuel de l'article, les conditions sont maintenant changées. On prétend aussi que la monnaie de cuivre chinoise et probablement celle d'autres pays, peut être importée et fondue avec un bon bénéfice.

#### RAPPORT STATISTIQUE SUR L'IMMIGRATION.

Depuis l'année 1896, l'immigration aux États-Unis pendant la période fiscale terminée le 30 juin 1899 a été plus grande que celles des années

précédentes, son total surpassant de plus de 80,000 le chiffre atteint en 1898. Mr. TERRENCE V. POWDERLY, chef du service de l'immigration aux Etats-Unis, a compilé les rapports transmis des différents ports de l'Union et a trouvé que 311,715 étrangers avaient mis le pied sur le sol américain. Parmi eux étaient 195,277 immigrants du sexe masculin et 116,458 du sexe féminin. En 1898 le total général s'élevait à 299,299; en 1897 à 230,832; en 1896 à 343,267; en 1895 à 258,536 et en 1894 à 285,631. L'immigration pour les deux derniers mois (mai et juin) a été remarquablement grande, se montant respectivement à 54,154 et 40,033. Si ce chiffre se maintient pendant la présente année fiscale, les nouveaux arrivés se monteront à plus de 500,000.

Pendant les années précédentes le bureau d'immigration enregistrait seulement la nationalité de chaque immigrant, mais l'année dernière il a tenu compte de sa race et de sa nationalité. Jusqu'ici le nombre d'immigrants appartenant à la race sémitique n'était pas connu; ils étaient classés comme Allemands, Russes ou Polonais. Pendant les 12 derniers mois, 37,415 Israélites furent admis aux Etats-Unis. Les Italiens de nouveau sont en majorité, le total des arrivés du nord de l'Italie étant de 65,639; celui du sud de l'Italie de 13,091, soit un total de 78,730. Le nombre des Irlandais immigrés était 32,345, dont 18,625 du sexe féminin et 13,700 du sexe masculin, les Irlandaises s'expatriant plus facilement que les hommes. Tous les peuples de la terre à l'exception de la Valachie (principauté de la Roumanie) ont fourni des immigrants, parmi lesquels se trouvent 412 noirs venant d'Afrique et 1,638 chinois dont 11 du sexe féminin.

#### L'INDUSTRIE DE LA FIGUE DE SMYRNE EN CALIFORNIE.

Le Ministère de l'Agriculture des Etats-Unis, dans un rapport publié pendant le mois de juin 1899, traite des efforts qu'il a faits afin d'établir l'industrie de la figue de Smyrne dans l'Etat de la Californie et du succès probable de cette entreprise. Il paraît que la production de la figue dépend de l'introduction et de l'établissement en Californie d'un petit insecte, "Blastophage," que l'on trouve dans le sud de l'Europe et qui fertilise le fruit. Des expériences à ce sujet furent commencées en 1898 et quelques-uns de ces insectes apportés alors, ont réussi à pénétrer les bourgeons des figues poussant à Fresno, faisant un succès de ce premier coup d'essai. Le rapport ajoute: L'insecte s'étant tenu pendant une année entière, il y a raison de supposer qu'il continuera à se multiplier et que la Californie, dans un futur très rapproché, sera capable d'envoyer sur le marché une figue qui possèdera les mêmes qualités supérieures que celles importées de Smyrne et qui ont donné à ces dernières un rang commercial préminent.

#### DEMANDES DE BREVETS D'INVENTION EN 1898 ET 1899.

Le rapport annuel de l'Honorable CHARLES H. DUELL, Directeur du Bureau des Brevets aux Etats-Unis, montre que pendant l'année

dernière il a reçu 35,352 demandes de brevets d'invention, 2,292 pour dessins, 91 pour renouvellement de brevets, 1,861 pour enregistrement de marques de fabrique, 612 pour enregistrement d'étiquettes, 112 pour impressions et gravures et 1,610 pour notifications de demande de brevet, soit un total général de 41,930 demandes de toutes sortes. Il y a eu 24,406 droits de patente accordés. Pendant l'année, 16,670 lettres patentes ont expiré, plus de 4,000 ont été refusées faute de paiement des derniers droits, et plus de 8,000 demandes ont été accordées en attendant l'acquiescement des droits finals.

#### PRODUITS DES MINÉRAUX ET DES MÉTAUX EN 1898.

Le "Engineering and Mining Journal," du mois de juillet, contient un sommaire des statistiques des minéraux et des métaux produits aux Etats-Unis en 1898. Les chiffres donnés montrent que la valeur de ces produits pendant l'année mentionnée ci-dessus se montait à \$709,816,750, au lieu de \$648,804,899 en 1897. Dans cette production sont compris \$65,082,430 d'or et \$58,763,127 onces d'argent. La production du charbon était 218,106,519 "short tons," soit une augmentation de 173,000 tonnes de plus que les années antérieures. La production de la fonte était de 11,773,934 tonnes, la plus grande quantité qui ait jamais été obtenue dans n'importe quel pays, en une année. La production du vin dont les statistiques sont données dans le même bulletin mensuel a été la plus grande qui ait jamais été constatée et a atteint plus de la moitié de celle du monde. Les autres articles principaux étaient: 228,475 "short tons" de plomb, 114,104 "short tons" de zinc, 30,493 bouteilles de vin d'argent, et 51,774,465 barils de pétrole. Les autres espèces de produits inférieurs sont comprises dans les 103 articles différents. Pendant l'année, on a raffiné et préparé dans ce pays, pour le marché, \$22,024,960 d'or, 39,784,000 onces d'argent, 36,055,352 livres de vin, 89,209 tonnes de plomb, et 7,127,784 livres de nickel sans compter les produits du pays.

#### CONDITIONS AGRICOLES DE PUERTO-RICO—SON AVENIR COMMERCIAL.

Mr. WILLIAM DINWIDDIE, après avoir consacré une partie de son temps à étudier avec soin les ressources de Puerto-Rico, a écrit un livre très intéressant qui vient d'être publié par la maison Harper Brothers, de New-York, et qui a pour titre: "Puerto Rico, its Conditions and Possibilities." Dans cet ouvrage l'auteur, tout en engageant fortement les capitalistes à venir profiter des occasions offertes et à placer leurs capitaux dans cette île, conseille toutefois aux personnes sans capitaux de s'en tenir éloignées, quelque ambitieuses qu'elles puissent être. A ce sujet il ajoute que les personnes qui ont de l'argent trouveront dans l'industrie du sucre, du café, la plantation du tabac et le commerce du laitage un débouché favorable. La culture des fruits et la coupe des bois n'offrent pour le moment aucun avantage. L'île a besoin de facilités

tés de transport, d'appareils électriques pour la lumière et de machines pour la glace. L'élevage des bestiaux a, dans son opinion, un bel avenir, le pays étant dans de bonnes conditions météorologiques, n'ayant ni sécheresse ni "blizzards" et fournissant d'abondants pâturages et une eau courante excellente pendant toute l'année.

Un des obstacles est la cherté de la terre, le prix moyen de l'acre étant d'environ 100 dollars. La culture du café est l'industrie qui occupe le premier rang, une bonne terre pour la plantation du cafièr valant de 20 à 500 dollars l'acre. Ce dernier prix est demandé pour les plantations qui ont cinq années d'existence, près du grand chemin militaire et ayant toutes les facilités de transport désirables. On ne croit pas qu'il y ait une section plus favorisée que l'autre en ce qui concerne le sol, les montagnes du district étant toutes également fertiles; mais les moyens de transporter les récoltes sont meilleurs dans quelques sections que dans d'autres.

Mr. DINWIDDIE donne une estimation de la valeur et de la culture d'une plantation de 100 acres et de son revenu probable en se basant sur les 15 cents obtenus pour une livre de café. Ce prix est évidemment exagéré, car le prix moyen de la livre de café de Puerto-Rico importé aux États-Unis en 1898 était de 13.39 cents. D'après le calcul de l'auteur, une plantation devrait commencer à rapporter en cinq ans, quand elle devrait produire de 500 à 1,000 livres par acre. La méthode de cultiver le cafièr est aussi décrite, ainsi que les procédés employés pour cueillir et eurer les grains, comprenant la polissure et la blémissage. Ce dernier procédé est usé dans le but de donner une teinte bleue au café, si appréciée sur les marchés français. Mr. DINWIDDIE estime la production annuelle à 55,000,000 livres, tandis que l'estimation espagnole pour 1898 n'était que 26,400,000 livres (voir le BULLETIN MENSUEL du mois de mai 1899, page 1949).

Le café de Puerto-Rico est très goûté en France, en Allemagne, en Autriche, et en Espagne. La France n'achète que le café de première qualité, tandis que l'Espagne n'acquiert que les qualités inférieures. Cuba a été un acquéreur de café depuis de nombreuses années.

Au sujet de la culture et de la manufacture du sucre, l'écrivain ajoute: "que ces hommes qui ont lutté pendant 100 ans à la Louisiane pour faire croître la canne à sucre sur un sol artificiel, trouveront certainement à Puerto-Rico, la récompense de leurs vaillants efforts. On emploie dans les petites plantations de sucre les méthodes les plus primitives; le vieux système de rouleaux en bois tournés par des bœufs et la grande marmite dans laquelle on fait bouillir le jus. Dans quelques pays on emploie le système suivi dans l'usine centrale, néanmoins l'industrie toute entière se trouve dans des conditions précaires, faute de machines modernes. On dit aussi que les plantations de sucre à Puerto-Rico produisent le double de celles des États-Unis, la terre étant plus fertile et les rejetons de la canne poussant pendant au moins quatre ans."

Quant à la culture du tabac, Mr. DINWIDDIE, croit qu'on peut obtenir des récoltes aussi bonnes que celles de Cuba.

#### CONDITIONS DES PRINCIPALES RÉCOLTES AU 1<sup>er</sup> AOÛT 1899.

Le rapport des statisticiens du Ministère de l'Agriculture indique la condition moyenne des principales récoltes au 1<sup>er</sup> août 1899: Maïs, 89.9; blé de printemps, 83.6; avoine, 90.8; orge, 93.6; seigle du printemps, 89; blé sarrasin, 93.2; pomme de terre, 93; foin (timothy), 86.7.

La condition moyenne de la récolte du maïs était à la date ci-dessus mentionnée, 2.9 points de plus que celle de 1898 à la même date et 3.2 de plus que toutes les moyennes du mois d'août pendant les dix dernières années.

La condition moyenne du blé du printemps était de 12.9 points plus bas que celle constatée au 1<sup>er</sup> août 1898 et 0.3 de moins que les moyennes pendant dix ans. La moyenne de la récolte de l'avoine accusait 6.6 points de plus que celle du 1<sup>er</sup> août 1898 et 8.3 points de moins que les moyennes pendant dix ans. La proportion de la récolte de l'avoine des années précédentes qui se trouve encore entre les mains des fermiers est estimée à 6.9 pour cent, qui est à peu près la moyenne normale. La condition de l'orge dépassait de 14.3 points celle de la même période en 1898 et de 8.6 points les moyennes du mois d'août pendant les dix dernières années. La condition moyenne du seigle était 1.5 points au-dessus des moyennes pendant dix ans, mais de 4.7 points au-dessous de la moyenne du mois d'août 1898. Les rapports préliminaires indiquent une augmentation de 0.7 de .01 dans la superficieensemencée de blé sarrasin sur celle des années antérieures. La condition moyenne était 6 points de plus qu'au 1<sup>er</sup> août 1898 et 2.2 points de plus que la moyenne pendant dix ans.

Quant aux pommes de terre irlandaises, la moyenne pour le mois dépassait de 9.1 points celle constatée au 1<sup>er</sup> août 1898, et était de 6.9 points au-dessus des moyennes du mois d'août pendant dix années. Les indications pour les patates accusent une récolte moyenne.

En ce qui concerne le foin, les rapports reçus indiqueraient une réduction de 3.4 pour cent dans la superficieensemencée. La condition du foin (timothy) était de 12.6 points au-dessous de 1898.

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## VENEZUELA.

### PROVISÍONS DE QUINCAILLERIE.

On lit dans le "Moniteur Officiel du Commerce" que la ferronnerie, la clouterie ou quincailleterie qui se vend à Venezuela provient des Etats-Unis, de l'Angleterre et de l'Allemagne. Les articles de ce genre exportés de France sont en minorité.

## EXPORTATIONS DE HAMBOURG AUX PAYS DE L'AMÉRIQUE.

Le Bureau vient de recevoir les statistiques du commerce et de la navigation de Hambourg pour l'année 1898 que M. le Dr. VERSMANN, Maire de cette ville, a eu la gracieuseté de lui envoyer.

Le tableau ci-dessous donne le montant des exportations de la ville de Hambourg aux pays du Nouveau Continent:

	Marks.
Amérique anglaise .....	14, 643, 630
Etats-Unis (côte de l'Atlantique) .....	147, 465, 640
Etats-Unis (côte du Pacifique) .....	2, 000, 940
Mexique (côte de l'Atlantique) .....	22, 194, 990
Mexique (côte du Pacifique) .....	3, 508, 080

### AMÉRIQUE CENTRALE.

Guatemala .....	3, 524, 960
Bélice .....	54, 930
Honduras .....	692, 040
Salvador .....	1, 046, 540
Nicaragua .....	871, 390
Costa Rica .....	2, 017, 680
Puerto-Rico .....	2, 238, 740
Cuba .....	1, 653, 490
Barbados .....	119, 860
Haïti .....	1, 045, 460
Saint-Domingue .....	1, 542, 760
La Jamaïque .....	458, 840
La Trinité .....	341, 830
Bahamas .....	28, 460
Autres Iles .....	86, 640
Saint-Thomas .....	463, 390
Curacao .....	373, 420
Guyane .....	216, 560
Venezuela .....	6, 577, 750
Colombie (Côte de la mer des Antilles) .....	5, 640, 240
Colombie (Côte du Pacifique) .....	1, 031, 050
Paraguay .....	223, 190
Brésil .....	68, 332, 760
République Argentine .....	36, 989, 840
Iles Falkland .....	7, 670
Uruguay .....	8, 323, 950
Chili .....	31, 734, 430
Bolivie .....	2, 926, 560
Pérou .....	8, 066, 980
Ecuador .....	4, 195, 800



## BIBLIOGRAPHIE.

Le "Bulletin de la Société Neuchateloise de Géographie" (Tome XI, 1899) contient une revue des plus intéressantes par Mme. LINA BECK BERNARD, qui a pour titre: "Missions françaises du désert argentin."

L'auteur fait un tableau merveilleux de cet immense territoire qui s'étend des rives de l'Atlantique jusqu'à la crête des Andes; elle parle de sa végétation; des cours d'eau qui le traversent; des forêts impénétrables qui bordent les rivières; des nombreux animaux de toutes sortes et des races infortunées et ingrates que les premiers conquérants du Nouveau Monde n'ont su ni soumettre ni civiliser et qui peuplent ces plaines fertiles; des essais infructueux des Jésuites qui, malgré leurs richesses immenses, un pouvoir absolu, ont vu leur œuvre péricliter, et fait un éloge pompeux de ces missionnaires franciscains qui, dénonés de tout, n'ont pas craint de braver tous les périls pour venir planter dans ces régions sauvages le drapeau de la civilisation et se consacrer à la conversion de cette race barbare.

Mme. LINA BECK BERNARD publie aussi dans cette revue un extrait du registre de la correspondance tenue par le Père CONSTANCIO FERRERO, en sa qualité de préfet des missions. Cette correspondance, dont les originaux sont écrits en italien et en espagnol, a été traduite en français; elle donne une idée des travaux inouïs accomplis, du courage et de l'activité de ces hommes hardis et dévoués, qui subirent toutes les fatigues pour atteindre le but qu'il s'étaient assigné. Le caractère, les mœurs et le gouvernement sous lequel vivent les Indiens qui habitent ces contrées sont longuement et intelligemment dépeints.

L'observatoire météorologique des Etats-Unis vient de faire paraître, pour le mois de juin, la carte météorologique des Grands Lacs indiquant les variations atmosphériques qui se sont produites dans ses régions et donnant la hauteur normale d'eau et de neige recueillies pendant l'année. Cette carte est accompagnée de plusieurs tables et d'un sommaire préparés par Mr. A. J. HENRY. De ces observations météorologiques, il résulte que la hauteur pluviométrique aux Etats-Unis et au Canada n'est pas aussi grande qu'on veut bien le croire, et à ce sujet Mr. A. J. HENRY s'exprime ainsi: A l'exception peut-être du Lac Supérieur, les lacs ne paraissent pas avoir une influence très marquée sur l'atmosphère des régions voisines. L'eau tombe avec plus d'abondance au sud qu'au nord des lacs Supérieur, Erie et Ontario, la différence dans ce cas étant pour le Lac Supérieur 8 pouces environ, tandis qu'au sud des lacs Erie et Ontario, la moyenne est de 3 pouces de plus que sur les rives septentrionales. Sur les rives orientales des lacs Michigan et Huron, la pluie tombe en plus grande quantité que sur les parties occidentales, mais ces phénomènes ne sont pas aussi remarquables que ceux

précités. Le volume d'eau qui tombe annuellement au nord de la presqu'île de Michigan est moindre que celui de la côte, tandis qu'à l'intérieur du même Etat la pluie est moins fréquente que sur les bords des lacs.

Mr. FRANZ BUETTGENBACH, un ingénieur des mines à Aachen, Allemagne, dans un ouvrage intitulé: "Geschichtliches über die Entwicklung des 800 jährigen Steinkohlenbergbaues an der Worm, 1113-1898," a répondu à une question qui a soulevé de nombreuses discussions dans les journaux commerciaux de l'Europe. Le problème à résoudre était le suivant: Quand les Européens commencèrent-ils pour la première fois à exploiter les mines de charbon? Les anciennes archives écossaises montrent qu'en 1214, à la fin du règne du roi GUILLAUME DIT LE LION, du charbon fut trouvé sur les côtes sud du "Firth of Forth," et aussi que durant le même règne des titres de concession des mines de houille de Cariden furent accordés aux moines de "Holyrood Abbey" d'Edinbourg. D'après les savants Anglais, ces titres ont été les premiers authentiques prouvant l'existence du charbon. Toutefois, les documents allemands découverts par Mr. BUETTGENBACH ne laissent aucun doute sur l'existence de ce combustible et de son exploitation dans le district de "Worms" au moins cent ans auparavant et à une date aussi éloignée que 1113. L'auteur a aussi publié un travail préliminaire dans lequel il traite du même sujet.

Sur les instances de Señor Don ANTONIO BARRIOS, Ministre de l'Intérieur, Señor JOSÉ HORTA a écrit une brochure de 20 pages, intitulée: "Production du Caoutchouc à Guatemala" (El Hule en Guatemala). Cet ouvrage qui a été publié dans le courant de l'année par le Gouvernement (Typographie Nationale) favorise la culture du caoutchouc (Castilla Elástica) dans la République. Mr. A. M. BEAUPRÉ, Consul-Général des Etats-Unis, a transmis au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères une traduction de cette brochure qui a été insérée dans "Advance Sheets of Consular Reports No. 370" par le Bureau du Commerce au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères. À ce sujet Mr. ALBERTO attire l'attention sur un article paru dans le "De Indische Mercur," Batavia, Java, et qui a pour titre "Recommandation du caoutchouc" (Castilla Elástica) extrait à Guatemala."

Il y a environ cinq ans, Mr. E. T. CHAMBERLAIN, Commissaire de la Marine des Etats-Unis, compila toutes les lois des Etats-Unis relatives à la navigation de la marine marchande. Cet ouvrage, publié en 1895, renferme des renseignements si précieux concernant les affaires maritimes qu'il est particulièrement utile aux conseils de l'amirauté, qui peuvent y trouver, en quelques minutes, toutes les lois et renseignements dont ils ont besoin; aussi est-il très demandé.

Une nouvelle édition de cet ouvrage vient d'être publiée par le Bu-

reau de la Navigation et comprend toute la législation compilée par Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, jusqu'au 4 mars 1899, époque à laquelle s'est ajourné le dernier Congrès.

Mr. CHARLES D. WALCOTT, Directeur du service géologique aux Etats-Unis, a fait paraître à la date du 27 juillet un ouvrage contenant une magnifique carte de l'Alaska en 1898, une importante description des routes et des terrains explorés et des renseignements généraux sur tout ce territoire.

L'assemblée législative des Etats-Unis (55th Congress) ayant mis à la disposition de ce service 20,000 dollars pour travaux géologiques dans l'Alaska, plusieurs géologues et topographes y furent envoyés; la publication dont il est question ci-dessus est un des résultats des travaux de ces savants.

Les directeurs généraux de l'Exposition Pan-Américaine, qui doit avoir lieu dans la ville de Buffalo (Etat de New-York) pendant l'été et l'automne de l'année 1901 ont, dans l'intérêt de l'exposition, publié un journal. Le premier numéro de cette publication, qui est magnifiquement imprimée et superbement illustrée, a paru le 15 juillet. Cette feuille périodique pour le moment ne paraîtra que deux fois par mois, le premier et le quinze, mais plus tard, au fur et à mesure que les travaux de l'exposition avanceront, elle sera publiée plus fréquemment et sur un plus grand format.

Mr. THOMAS WRIGHT HURST vient de faire paraître un ouvrage de 98 pages, avec des cartes, intitulé: *The Isthmus of Panama*. Ce travail est la compilation de quelques articles traitant de la question et écrits pour les journaux techniques par l'auteur et d'autres écrivains. Le livre contient aussi une collection de rapports, lettres, mémoires, etc., rédigés par différents ingénieurs, voyageurs et autres écrivains qui ont étudié personnellement la question du canal. Il y a aussi une revue d'autres routes, telles que San Blas et Darien ainsi que le Canal Tehuantepec.

Le 6<sup>me</sup> rapport annuel pour l'année 1898, qui vient d'être publié par le Bureau de l'Agriculture, du Travail et de l'Industrie de l'Etat de Montana, sous la direction de Mr. J. H. CALDERHEAD, a pour titre: "Trésor de l'Etat; Montana et ses magnifiques ressources." Les principales richesses de cet Etat sont ses grandes ressources minières dont le cuivre est la principale, ainsi que ses magnifiques produits agricoles. Ce rapport forme une brochure de 120 pages et comprend plusieurs cartes.

Mr. C. WILLARD HAYS a fait paraître dans le "National Geographic Magazine," de juillet, une étude des plus intéressantes sur le Canal de Nicaragua. Mr. DAVIS a publié un supplément à ce magasin donnant

un aperçu des travaux d'arpentage du Panama. Dans le même numéro se trouve un compte-rendu des travaux exécutés par le Bureau de Géodésie des Etats-Unis.

Le journal "The Open Court." de juillet, renferme un article, malheureusement trop court, de M. le Professeur FREDERICK STARR au sujet de la survivance du paganisme chez les Indiens du Mexique.

Un correspondant du journal "India Rubber World" envoie de Para, à la date du 1<sup>er</sup> juin 1899, les informations suivantes:

"En commémoration du 400<sup>me</sup> anniversaire de la découverte du Brésil, quelques écrivains des plus renommés de la République ont l'intention, l'année prochaine, de publier un ouvrage donnant la description du pays et ses ressources. Le Baron MARJO y traitera la question géographique et Señor J. LUCIO D'AZEVEDO donnera l'histoire complète de l'industrie du caoutchouc."

Le Magasin encyclopédique (Donahoe's) du mois de juillet contient un article illustré très intéressant sur le Nicaragua, signé E. LYELL EARLE.

