

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

WASHINGTON, U. S. A.

- I. FINANCES OF CHILE.
- II. RECENT COMMERCE OF BRAZIL.
- III. TARIFF CHANGES IN BRAZIL.
- IV. TARIFF CHANGES IN GUATEMALA.
- V. MARBLE DEPOSITS IN COLOMBIA.
- VI. GOVERNMENT LANDS IN MEXICO.
- VII. COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION.

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

Director.—CLINTON FURBISH.
Secretary.—FREDERIC EMORY.

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Three monthly bulletins, in addition to the current issue, have been published by the Bureau of American Republics, viz., "Coffee in America," October, 1893; "Coal and Petroleum in Colombia," etc., November, 1893, and "Minerals and Resources of Northeastern Nicaragua," etc., December, 1893.

Of the publications of the Bureau, the following will be furnished to applicants at the prices named in the list. All orders for these publications must be addressed to "The Public Printer, Washington, D. C.," and must be accompanied with the money for same. No money will be received by the Bureau or its officers:

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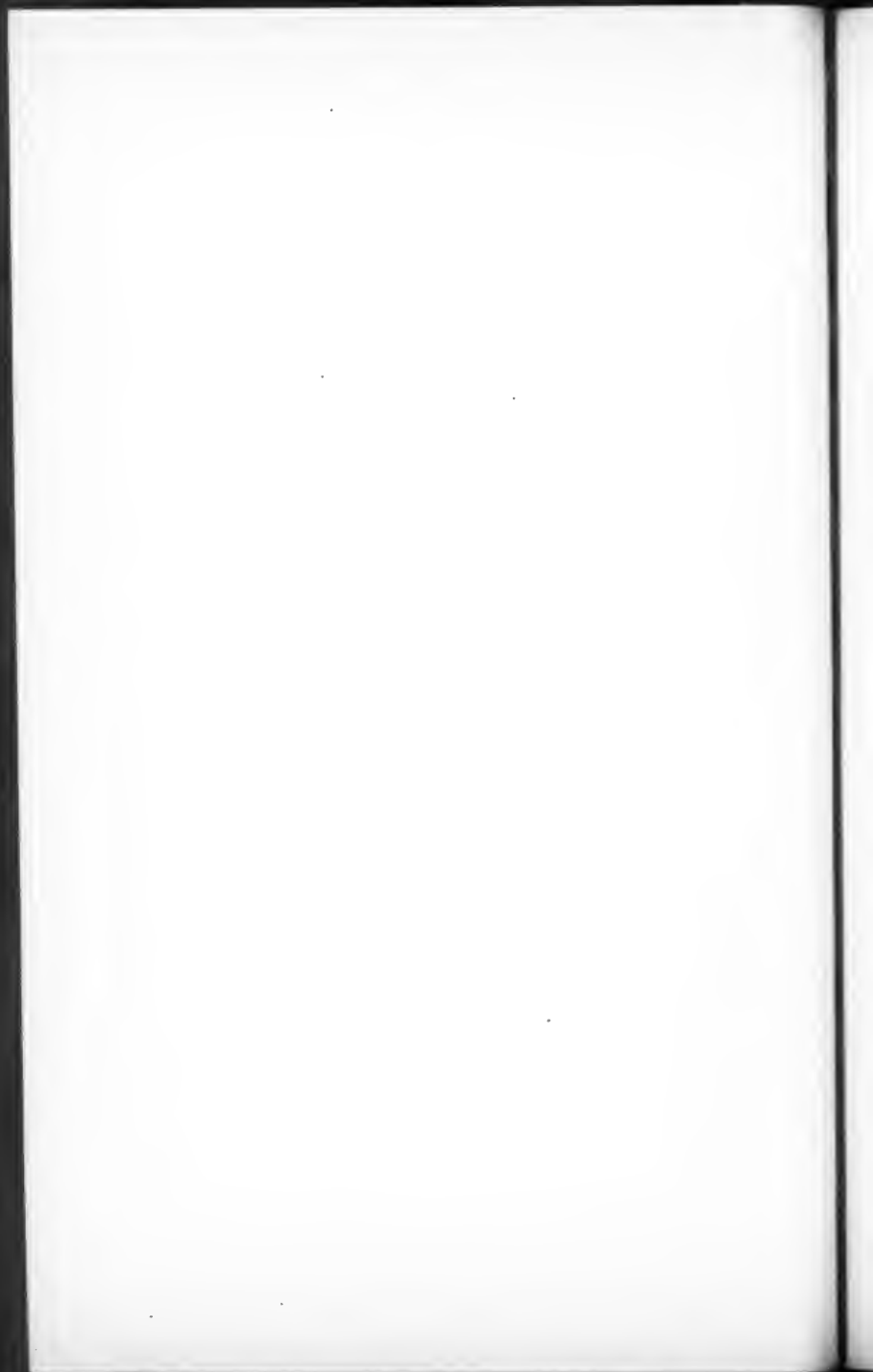
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FINANCES OF CHILE.

No. 66.]

LEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES.

SANTIAGO, *December 19, 1893.*HON. W. Q. GRESHAM,
Secretary of State.

SIR: I inclose for the use of the Bureau of American Republics a translation by the Chilean Times of a communication of the Chilean Minister of Finance, Mr. Aljandro Vial, to the Chilean Minister in France, reporting the present financial condition of the republic. I send also for the same use a copy of the decree of sale of certain nitrate properties; also a table showing the receipts from customs for the month of November past, and another showing the present condition of the conversion fund provided for the redemption of certain paper currency issued by the Government. I have, etc.,

JAS. D. PORTER. *

[The Chilean Times - Valparaiso.]

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION.

Important Communication of the Minister of Finance to the
Chilian Minister in France.

No. 1160.]

SANTIAGO, *November 30, 1893.*

Some London papers have lately published divers articles on Chile, doubtless intended to damage the credit of this country.

In the articles in question, the Government also has been attacked because it has granted concessions for the construction of new railways in the Province of Tarapaca, and hostility towards the foreign element has been attributed to this measure.

I have no desire in this communication to refute the said articles, because that has already been done by the Legation in a manner that

*United States Minister to Chile.

will carry to people interested in our affairs the conviction that on the part of Chile there has not existed, nor can there exist, any hostility against foreigners, and that they enjoy in every way the same and even greater privileges than the natives.

We are surprised at the persistent crusade which is carried on in England against the credit of Chile which has ever fulfilled its obligations even in times of difficulty and danger, postponing, for this purpose, urgent necessities of the Government, and that this crusade, which is as unjust as unwarrantable, should have been inaugurated at a time when the finances of the country are in a flourishing condition.

This clearly demonstrates that the interests it is sought to defend are not the general interests of trade or of the foreign capital invested in our country, which, within its territory, enjoy the same privileges and immunities as those of the natives, or those that they may have enjoyed in their own country.

On this occasion, I desire solely to lay before you certain antecedents which will enable you to form a correct idea with respect to the public finances, in order that you may be able to rectify statements and remove the impression that may have been produced by articles which do not bear the stamp of truth.

* * * * *

The estimated expenditure for the current year was \$48,000,000 in current money, and £762,134 sterling, which, added to supplementary grants and special laws passed subsequently to the promulgation of the estimates, give a total authorized expenditure for the current year of \$51,800,000 in legal-tender currency, and of 1,048,000 in pounds sterling.

From these amounts there may be deducted with all confidence the portion of the estimates which will not be expended during the current year, and which may be estimated at \$1,000,000 in legal-tender currency, and at £25,000 sterling so that the total expenditure for the year will not exceed \$50,800,000 in legal-tender currency, and a little more than £1,000,000 sterling.

The revenue was calculated, taking into consideration the balances in hand in the treasuries in January, 1893, which amounted to \$2,000,000, at \$60,793,000 in legal-tender currency and £1,041,000 sterling.

At the beginning of the year, the accounts current in the banks showed a balance against the Government of \$4,200,000.

Out of the ordinary revenue, all the public services have been attended to and the debt owing to the banks has been cancelled.

Consequently, the total expenditure for the year will amount, approximately, to \$55,000,000.

To meet the expenditure of \$55,000,000, and of £1,000,000 sterling a revenue of \$63,300,000 in legal-tender currency and \$1,041,000 sterling is counted upon him.

To prove the correctness of these calculations, I will proceed to show you the state of the national finances at the middle of the current month:

On that date there existed in the treasuries the sum of	\$2,900,000
Import duties will yield to the end of the current month	500,000
Import duties will yield to the end of December	2,000,000
Export duties to the end of the current month	1,200,000
Export duties to the end of December	3,600,000

Total to the end of the year 10,200,000

The expenditure to the end of December may be safely calculated as follows:

Salaries of public employes in November and December	\$2,400,000
Other government expenses	2,500,000

Or a total expenditure of 4,900,000

Which amount, deducted from the \$10,200,000, leaves a surplus of \$5,300,000.

With respect to revenue and expenditure in gold, you are aware that with the remittance of £60,049 sterling sent to the Legation on October 21 last, the amount to be paid in gold by the Legation may be considered to be provided for.

Since the remittance of October 21, the following sums have been remitted to you:

Per steamer of November 4	£43,851
Per steamer of November 17	33,651
And by this mail	64,914

Total 142,416

Which, added to the export duties in December, and which are calculated at upwards of 100,000

Makes a total of 242,416

which is intended to form part of the fund that the Legation will require for the public service abroad during the first half of 1894.

Outside of the amounts already mentioned, the import duties, payable in gold, and which are destined for the conversion of our paper money, have produced up to date the sum of £267,870 1s. od., and considering that these duties will amount in December to £60,000 sterling, we have for the Conversion Fund a sum not less than £327,870 sterling.

This amount has naturally to be added to the surplus in hand on December 31.

* * * * *

The estimates for 1894, presented to Congress in June last, amounted to the sum of \$49,754,000, and £1,427,00 sterling.

These amounts have been modified, firstly, by the Joint Budget Committee and, secondly, by the Senate. The total amount agreed upon by the Senate, and now being discussed in the Chamber of Deputies, is the sum of \$55,304,000, and £868,000 sterling.

You will see from this, that the estimated expenditure in current money, has been augmented by \$5,550,000.

This increased expenditure is due to sundry public works which it is necessary to carry out, or to inaugurate next year, and which will contribute to the development of our trade and to the increase of the public wealth.

Among them, there figures the proposed dock for the port of Iquique and a breakwater for Talcahuano, which will greatly facilitate the landing of foreign goods and the shipment of home produce.

You will please bear in mind that the estimates of the Ministry of Public Works amount, approximately, to \$19,000,000, and that in them there figure large sums for railways in construction and for the purchase of rolling-stock and materials adequate for the requirements of the transportation of all the freight which from day to day increases in proportion to the development of our industries.

The diminution in the estimates in gold is due to the suppression by Congress of the item inserted for the formation of the Conversion Fund in consequence, in the first place, of its not being considered expenditure, and in the second, because it has been thought that by inserting in the estimates an item for the Conversion Fund, it might give cause abroad for the belief that conversion could not be effected if at any time Congress should refuse to sanction the item.

As a special act provides that the amounts mentioned in it shall be devoted to the conversion of the paper money on a certain fixed date, it was quite unnecessary to insert any sum in the estimates, inasmuch as it was not to be expended in the year.

For these reasons, the item in question was expunged from the estimates, and these appear so much the less by this sum.

To defray the expenditure in 1894 the country counts upon the following resources:

	Paper Money.	Gold.
Surplus on January 1, 1894	\$5,300,000	
Fifty per cent of the import duties, calculated at \$12,000,000	6,300,000	\$470,000
Surcharge of 35 per cent on the \$6,000,000	2,100,000	
Twenty-five per cent of import duties, payable in legal tender currency	3,000,000	
Surcharge of 137.71 per cent upon the preceding amount in conformity with the prescriptions of article 5 of the act of May 31 last	4,131,537	
Storage	120,000	
Surcharge on storage	42,000	
Export duties on nitrate and iodine, the exportation being calculated at 22,000,000 Spanish quintals, on which duties are payable in current money at an average rate for the year of 16 pence exchange	25,087,210	\$71,662
Wharfage	40,000	
Confiscations and fines	25,000	
Railways	15,000,000	
Stamps	800,000	
Postoffice and telegraphs	850,000	
Agricultural tax	201,062	
Rentals of properties	40,000	
Redemption of censos	250,000	
Other branches of revenue	500,000	
Sales of public lands and instalments from previous sales	2,500,000	
Total	66,286,809	1,341,662

From the preceding data you will observe the considerable diminution which has been calculated in imports. These will amount in the current year to \$15,000,000, and for next year they are estimated at \$12,000,000 only, taking into consideration that the surcharge which will be recoverable on custom-house duties next year will bring about a diminution in the importation of foreign goods and will limit our consumption.

The exportation of nitrate in 1894 is calculated at 22,000,000 Spanish quintals.

As you will readily comprehend, this calculation, far from being exaggerated, is probably under the mark.

For instance, it must be borne in mind that from March 31, 1894, the production will be free, and each producer will produce as much as he can: that from the same date, the Lagunas Works, with a capacity of production equal to 10,000 quintals daily, will commence operations, as will also other works belonging to Sloman & Dohn and Folsch & Martin; that many of the Government properties to be sold will be in a position to produce shortly after the sale, especially those which are situated alongside works actually in operation, or those possessing machinery which with little trouble can be put in running order, and finally that the production in the current year will not be under 21,000,000 quintals, which production has been very limited, and has caused a considerable diminution in the stocks of nitrate in Europe.

In view of these circumstances, I repeat that the calculations formed by the government of the revenue in 1894 are very moderate, and it may be safely asserted that the reality will exceed the calculations.

We count, therefore, with a revenue of \$66,286,809 and £871,622 sterling to cover an expenditure in the year amounting to \$55,304,000 in current money and £868,000 sterling, which will leave a surplus of \$10,982,000 and £3,600 sterling.

This is without counting the £470,000 sterling destined for the conversion of the paper money.

The preceding statement will show you the true situation of the national finances, and the data contained in it will enable you to comprehend that it is as satisfactory as could be desired, and that the country is in a position to fulfill the obligation it has contracted to redeem the paper money on June 30, 1896.

For this purpose, it counts upon more than sufficient resources, and with the fixed determination to fulfill the pledge it has solemnly given.

God guard you.

ALEJANDRO VIAL.

TO SEÑOR DON AUGUSTO MATTE,

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary

of the Republic in France.

SALE OF GOVERNMENT NITRATE PROPERTIES.**Decree of Sale.**

SANTIAGO, *November 30, 1893.*

By virtue of the powers invested in me by clauses 1 and 2 of the act of the 29th of the current month.

I hereby decree:

1. On June 15, 1894, and following days, at 12 o'clock noon of the day, there shall be sold in Santiago, by public auction, in the presence of the Junta de Almoneda, the following nitrate works and nitrate grounds in Tarapaca:

Nitrate Works.

1. Victoria.
2. Palacio Industrial.
3. California.
4. Encarnacion.
5. Paradas de Negreiros and adjacent grounds.
6. Germania and adjacent grounds.
7. Abra de Ugarte.
8. Valparaiso and adjacent grounds.

Nitrate Grounds.

1. Cerro de Campaña.
 2. Cerro de Pitoguyac.
 3. Cerro de San Bartolo.
 4. Re balon and San Roman.
 5. Incurables and Libertad.
 6. Paradas de Loayza.
 7. Grounds behind Abra de Quiroga.
 8. Cerro de Trinidad.
 9. Ground between Primitiva and Tres Marias
 10. Puntilla de Tres Marias.
 11. Tia Caricia and Agustina Flores.
2. The minimum price of sale will be that fixed by the Valuing Commission appointed in the decree of March 10, of the current year.
3. Intending bidders must previously to the sale give security equal to 10 per cent of the valuation of the works or grounds they

may desire to purchase. The soundness of the security will be decided upon by the Director of the Treasury.

4. This security will be cancelled within the five days next following after the sale to such bidders as may not have purchased.

5. Bidders who may have purchased properties must pay 20 per cent of the purchase money within ten days after the sale, and the security will remain in force in the form prescribed in clause 6, of the act of the 29th instant.

If payment should not be made in the time specified, the sale will become void, and the purchaser shall pay to the Treasury a fine of 20 per cent of the purchase money. This fine will be deducted from the security given in conformity with clause 3.

6. The remainder of the purchase money will be payable at the time specified in clause 5, of the aforesaid act of the 29th instant.

7. The Director of the Treasury will sign the deeds of sale in which there shall be inserted the present decree and clauses 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, of the act of the 29th instant.

8. The properties, buildings, plant, and fixtures will remain mortgaged to the Government until the whole of the purchase money shall have been paid.

Let it be noted, communicated, and published in the form and for the time prescribed in clause 3, of the act of the 29th instant.

ALEJANDRO VIAL.

JORJE MONTT.

CUSTOMS REVENUE.

The customs revenue in November amounted to \$4,732,561.04 in legal-tender currency, and to \$1,453,199.39 in gold, as under:

Ports.	Paper.	Gold.
Arica	\$54,162 73	\$19,812 08
Pisagua	832,894 35	263,219 02
Iquique	2,162,863 58	672,411 73
Tocopilla	171,016 39	51,290 58
Taltal	122,514 08	34,423 40
Antofagasta	210,929 76	66,281 44
Caldera	2,602,64	1,018 54
Coquimbo	20,589 71	4,778 90
Valparaiso	924,280 00	276,614 00
Talcahuano	208,174 46	55,851 48
Coronel	13,250 92	5,299 29
Valdivia	8,887 31	2,058 97
Puerto Moutt.....	431 11	140 00
Total	4,732,561 04	1,453,199 39

CONVERSION FUND.

The reserve fund for the redemption of the paper money amounted, on December 5, to \$7,246,380.75, as under:

Metallic reserve—Value in silver dollars, in conformity with the act of November 26, 1892.....	\$4,319,226 15
Gold, of 24 pence, received direct in specie.....	248,654 10
Value of bills matured in Europe and sent to Chile, in specie.....	200,000 00
Value of bills received for import duties and storage in the hands of the legation in France, and in transit to recover and remit to Chile, calculated at 24 pence.....	2,478,500 50
	<hr/>
	7,246,380 75

RECENT COMMERCE OF BRAZIL.

When the naval revolt broke out at Rio de Janeiro on the 6th of September, 1893, fears were entertained that the commerce of that port would suffer greatly, and that the commercial interests of foreigners would be seriously jeopardized. These fears have been only partially realized. With the view of minimizing the damage to their several interests in the Brazilian capital, the leading maritime nations made haste to increase their naval forces in the bay, and an arrangement, made through the intervention of their commanders, between the Government of President Peixoto and the revolted Admiral, no doubt prevented a full realization of the apprehensions alluded to.

Some difficulties have been experienced and some danger has been incurred in the landing of cargoes in lighters from the vessels of different nationalities, and, in a few cases, the active intervention of the foreign naval commanders has been necessary to protect the property of subjects of their respective Governments from seizure by the insurgents; but such intervention has always been effective.

The commerce of the port of Rio de Janeiro, as well as that of the other leading ports of the country, had considerably increased at the time of the revolt over that of a corresponding period of the year 1892, as is shown by a comparison of the customs receipts for the month of August of the years 1892 and 1893, the month of the latter year next preceding that in which the revolt broke out. Referring to official publications of the Brazilian Government, we find that 9,938,291 milreis were collected in the custom-house of Rio de Janeiro for the said month in 1893, against 7,841,422 for the same month in 1892.

It is true that not all this apparent difference is real, for the value of the milreis in the former year was about 14 pence against about 11 pence in 1893.

The immediate effects of the revolt on the commerce of the above port may be shown as follows: The customs receipts for September,

1893, according to the same authority, fell off from the previous month to 5,715,930, being a decrease of 4,222,361, or about 42 per cent. The value of the milreis, which is always determined by the rate of exchange on London, was very little affected, being about 11 $\frac{1}{4}$ pence for August and 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ pence for September; at which latter rate it has remained during the remaining months of the past year. The decline in exchange, however, since the autumn of 1892, has been considerable, having fallen off from about 14 pence in 1892 to about 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in 1893. This difference in the value of the milreis should be taken into account in estimating the difference between the foreign commerce of Rio de Janeiro since the outbreak of the revolt, and that of the corresponding months of 1892, as shown by the following table:

Customs receipts at the Rio de Janeiro Custom-house:

	1892.	1893.	DECREASE.
September.....	6,876,332 milreis.....	5,715,930 milreis.....	17 per cent
October.....	6,440,191 milreis.....	6,121,976 milreis.....	5 per cent
November.....	7,104,729 milreis.....	6,928,829 milreis.....	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent

Although since the outbreak of the naval revolt, the commerce of the port of Rio de Janeiro has been affected to the extent above indicated, that of the other ports of the Republic, as shown by official reports, has sensibly increased. This fact, which shows that the revenues of the country have suffered little or no diminution in consequence of the disturbances at the capital, accounts for the slight decline in foreign exchange, and in the value of Brazilian securities held in Europe.

AMERICAN TRADE IN PERNAMBUCO.*

It is very important for houses desiring to secure trade in this port of Brazil to send good, reliable men to represent them—men who understand the language and who can find out from the parties here every detail regarding packing, shipping, size of bale, bundle, box, bag, cask, etc. The commercial traveler should ascertain all this and forward the order for the goods and give details as to their preparation for shipment. Then every particular given by the agent

* From Advance Sheets of United States Consular Reports, February, 1891.

or traveler should be carried out to the letter by the manufacturer or firm putting up and shipping the goods.

The commercial traveler coming to this country should be well paid. The house that wants to secure a good trade in its line will see to it that its representative is well paid.

Manufacturers of dry goods, such as prints, gingham, cotton goods of all kinds, twills, plaids, light material for trousers, counterpanes for beds, striped hickory, etc., should bear in mind that medium-class goods are chiefly used in this city, as in all the principal cities of the province, with much of the best class of goods also, while in the interior inferior goods are used. For this reason, as well as other reasons, the importer who orders for city and for country trade wants the goods sent as ordered. Will our American manufacturers cater to this dry goods trade, which is very large?

The English manufacturer, for instance, will supply thirty pieces of prints of different shades, but of the same pattern, which would be some 1,200 yards of from forty to fifty-five yards in a piece, while American manufacturers will not take an order for less than 100 pieces, showing they do not want this trade, unless on certain conditions which they themselves prescribe. Our manufacturers refuse to print goods from twenty-two to twenty-seven inches wide and from forty to forty-five yards in a piece, while the Brazilian importer knows that his customer in the interior of the State will not be satisfied with goods of any other width or with a greater or less number of yards in a piece.

It is immaterial what reason they may have for wanting these goods thus and so. If our manufacturers want this trade, they must conform to the prevailing methods or convince the people of the interior of Brazil that a different width and a greater number of yards in a piece would serve their purpose better. I understand the English manufacturer will print goods as desired. Will our manufacturers print goods with a weight of one pound in from two and one-half to seven yards, and from six and one-half to thirteen and one-half inches wide, as one or two or a dozen importers may desire, and rolled round or put up flat, as other importers may wish? The English manufacturer prints to order.

So far as cotton goods of all kinds are concerned, we should control the bulk of the trade, and if the young commercial travelers who

came here some time since representing forty-seven mills, manufacturing all kinds of cotton goods, will deal honestly and squarely by the importers, and if the manufacturers will place their goods upon this market satisfied with a reasonable profit, there is no doubt but that those forty-seven mills, located, I believe, principally in the Southern States, will secure a very large share of the trade in their line.

DAVID N. BURKE, *Consul*.

PERNAMBUCO, *November 7, 1893.*

III.

TARIFF CHANGES IN BRAZIL.

The following modifications of the Brazilian tariff have been made since the translation published by the Bureau of the American Republics in July, 1891 (Bulletin 8, Import Duties of Brazil), by a law passed by the Brazilian Congress in December, 1891, and reaffirmed in September, 1893. These modifications will be in force for the year 1894.

The surtaxes mentioned below are to be understood as increases on the rates given in the tariff as published by the Bureau in 1891.

Modifications of the Customs Tariff of Brazil for the Year 1894

I.—Importations.

The surtaxes on the import duties on articles of consumption, stipulated in law No. 25, of December 30, 1891, and in the legal dispositions alluded to in said law, are maintained.

The duty on matches has been trebled, and the duties on smoking tobacco and kitchen salt have been doubled.

A surtax of 30 per cent shall, as heretofore, be levied on the following articles:

Frog braid (<i>alamares</i>).	Tulle.
Carpets (<i>alcatifas</i>).	Gauze.
Barege.	Bows.
<i>Gregas</i> (edgings).	Plush.
Trimnings, various.	Velvets.
Galloons.	Rugs (<i>tapetes</i>).
Garters.	Articles composed wholly or in part
Blankets and covers.	of mother-of-pearl, tortoise shell,
Mantlets.	coral, gold, silver, platinum, or
Chenissettes.	precious stones.
Shirts.	Mirrors.

- Lace.
Nets.
Wearing apparel, made up.
Stockings, of yarn or wool.
Bands and insertions.
Window shades.
Brocades.
Lhamas.
Shawls.
Scarfs.
Veils.
Furniture of wood.
All articles of gold or silver, or combined with these metals.
Perfumery.
Playing cards.
Jewelry of all kinds.
Figures, busts, statues, vases, and other fancy or ornamental articles, of clay, porcelain, glass, copper and its alloys.
Manufactures of marble, alabaster, porphyry, jasper and similar stones.
Parisian tacks.
Harness.
Carriages.
Boots and shoes of tissues of silk, or mixed with silk, and Hessians.
Cheese.
Hams, prepared in any way.
Preserves of all kinds, with the exception of products preserved in ice.
Bologna and other sausages.
Ribbons of all kinds.
Tassels.
- Frames.
Mouldings.
Vases and other articles of porcelain, Nos. 4, 5 and 6.
Lustres, candelabra, and chandeliers of all kinds.
Articles of glass, No. 2.
Fermented beverages.
Liqueurs.
Alcoholic liquids and beverages.
Wine, in bottles.
Bouillons or jellies.
All articles included in classes XVIII, XXVII, XXIX, and XXXV.
Gloves.
Corsets.
Cravats.
Hats and caps of all kinds.
Tissues of linen, canvas, Brittany, Irish and Rouen cloth, muslin, cambric, *platilla*, and other tissues not specially mentioned, unbleached, bleached, dyed, brown, striped, or printed.
Cloth, cassimere, and cassinet of wool, mixed or not with silk, single or double, embroidered or not, and similar goods not specially mentioned.
Damask.
Alpacas, serges, *serafinas*, striped stuffs, royal, Chinese satin, knitted tissues, erape, woolen velvet, and other similar tissues not elsewhere mentioned, plain, twilled, figured or damasked.

Macaroni shall be subject to the duty levied on biscuits, small cakes and crackers.

The duties on liquids, which are not yet levied on a weight unit, shall, in future, be collected on gross weight, including recipients, with deduction of the tare allowances established in the tariff, the litre being considered as a kilogramme.

Conformably to law 126 A, of November 21, 1892, the clearance dues on articles exempt from consumption duties (with the exception of animals of the bovine,

ovine or porcine race, live or slaughtered, destined for consumption, wheat in the grain, and all other seeds destined for sowing, and the articles named below under the head of "Exemptions") are maintained.

Conformably to the aforesaid law, the surtax on portorage (*capatazias*) and warehouse dues are likewise maintained.

II.--Additional Dues.

The surtaxes established by law No. 25, of December 30, 1891, on the import duties on articles of consumption are maintained, and the exemptions from the surtax shall likewise include printing paper, books stitched or bound with cardboard or paper covers, cloth, hides or skins.

The additional tax of 10 percent levied on the fees for clearing goods admitted free of consumption duties, as well as on portorage, warehousing, light and dock dues, is likewise maintained.

III.--Exemptions.

The following articles shall, on importation, be exempt from clearance fees:

Machines and material destined to improve the manufacture of sugar, and for the construction and installation of factories, provided that these articles be directly imported by the cultivators or destined to their use.

The machines and materials in question, which include articles already exempt from duty according to the tariff as well as other dutiable articles, are the following:

1. Iron trusses or frames with accessories such as columns, beams, screws, rivets, sheets of zinc or of galvanized iron for walls and roofs.
2. Complete plant for lighting by electricity or gas.
3. Conduits for pipes and water, gas or steam, with their joints and cocks.
4. Tools of iron, portable lifting-jacks (*alhas*), forges, etc.
5. Machines and transmission apparatus for the manufacture of sugar and for the distillation of brandy and alcohol.
6. Transmission belts, bands of caoutchouc or asbestos, and cordage of cotton and hemp for transmission apparatus.
7. Presses (*trilhos*), portable or fixed, contractors' trollies and wagons for the transportation of earth and products; locomotives, carts, boats and recipients of wood or iron.
8. Fire-bricks for furnaces of steam boilers.
9. Scales for weighing sugar cane and iron tanks for cane juice.

The exemption from duty shall not extend to common building bricks, wood of all kinds; copper nails, generally known as Paris nails, grease for machines and to all articles which the industry of the country produces in a sufficient quantity to meet the requirements of consumption.

The request for exemption must be addressed to the customs inspectors, who shall grant the same on the production of the following documents:

1. A detailed list of the articles, with indication of the kind, quantity, weight or measure.

2. Proof establishing that the machines or material for which free entry is requested are destined to the use for which exemption is granted, that they will be employed for said purpose and that the quantity declared is exactly that absolutely required.

The customs clearance shall be effected by means of a bond or guarantee, in order that the Treasury may, when necessary, recover the duties due, should the machines or their parts as well as the imported materials have been employed for a use other than that for which the free entry was granted. In the latter case, the duties must be collected on all the materials or machines, and the interested party shall no longer be authorized to request other exemptions.

It is to be understood that in cases where the above surtax is levied on articles embraced in the reciprocity agreement between the United States and Brazil, the former country still continues to enjoy the reduction on the *total* amount of the duties guaranteed by said agreement.

IV.

TARIFF CHANGES IN GUATEMALA.

The official paper of Guatemala, *El Guatemalteco*, states that President Barrios has issued a decree in which, after citing the American articles which that government agreed to admit free of duty, he declares that from and after the 19th of October, 1893, certain additional articles are to be admitted into Guatemala free of all customs duties, and of any national or municipal dues, and national port charges. The following changes in the tariff and fiscal arrangements are also made:

From the 15th of October, the fiscal and municipal taxes on cattle were to be that of \$2.50 per head.

From the 12th of October cattle and hogs might be introduced into the Republic free of all taxes.

From the 13th of October, the importation of dried meats, smoked or salted, was to be free of all duties.

The slaughter of sheep and hogs is also free of all fiscal or municipal taxes.

From the 15th of October, the manufacture of flour in the country was to be free of all taxes, whether fiscal, municipal or other. The imported flour was to pay, from the same date, in the Custom House a

duty of \$2 per quintal, gross weight (about 101 pounds). Wheat imported is to pay \$1 per quintal.

From the 1st of January, 1894, the customs of the Republic will charge 25 per cent of the import duties in national gold coin without any alteration during the whole of the year 1894.

From the 14th of October, the tax on each bottle of "aguardiente," purchased at the depots for consumption, was to be 46 cents. Following are the articles to be admitted duty free:

- Acrometers.
- Galvanized iron wire for telegraph and telephone use.
- Wooden school alphabets of all kinds.
- Coal-pit tar.
- Asbestos, in fibre or plates, in natural state.
- Dessicated animals, prepared for cabinets of natural history.
- Printed, lithographed or engraved advertisements on paper or cardboard, without frame.
- Apparatus for gas lighting.
- Electric apparatus, except the chemical substances taxed.
- Fire engines and their appurtenances.
- Plows, and all separate parts of same.
- Argil, sand or molding-sand in natural state.
- Rice, in grain.
- Barometers.
- Paper money.
- Iron pumps of all kinds.
- Glass globes for electric light.
- Boats, fishing-tackle, sails, chains, oars, and all other appurtenances of ships in use in the ports, canals, rivers and lakes of the Republic.
- Iron buoys and all apparatus for locating the same.
- Pitch, prepared for vessels.
- Mineral refuse.
- Compasses of all kinds.
- Codfish.
- Wire or steel cable, of all thicknesses.
- Coal, charcoal and animal charcoal, except in powder.
- Catalogues, of all kinds, unbound.
- Geographical, topographical and nautical maps.
- Roman cement, common and hydraulic, lime.
- Coke.
- Numismatic, geological and natural historical collections for museums and cabinets.
- Cork, in sheets or uncut.
- Crucibles of all kinds and cupels.
- Rock crystal, unpolished.

- Sample books of drawings, writing and embroidery.
 Glazed or tarred roofing paper, in sheets.
 Emery, in powder or in grain.
 Geographical or astronomical globes.
 Spanish brooms.
 Sperin, in cakes.
 Oakum.
 Cases for mathematical instruments and assaying.
 Light-house lanterns.
 Stone filters.
 Dr. Pasteur's filters.
 Filters of compressed coal.
 Country views, without frames.
 Fragments of wrecked vessels.
 French beans.
 Dry fruits.
 Papes or cardboard designs, patterns, copies and models of art
 Chick-peas.
 Engravings made by Guatemalan artists residing outside of their country, the
 authenticity of which is proved, without frames.
 Grama (wheat grass).
 Fuse for mines.
 Peas.
 Iron, in bars or pig, plates.
 Assay furnaces and other instruments of refractory clay or graphite
 Lodestone.
 Odorless closets of all kinds, except the piping in connection
 Fire-bricks for furnaces.
 Fresh vegetables.
 Printed books, unbound.
 Locomotives, cars, utensils and material for railroads.
 Lumber in pieces.
 Hogs' lard.
 Electric batteries and machinery, unloaded, for enterprises of public service.
 Models of machines and buildings.
 Patterns and samples of drawings, calligraphy and embroidery.
 Molds for making artificial flowers.
 Samples, without any commercial value and those that have value, the duties
 not to exceed \$1.
 Lightning rods.
 Newspapers, loose.
 Petroleum, raw.
 Natural stones of all kinds, unpolished, without names, for industries, and
 manufactures.
 Slates and slate pencils.

Papier-mache, for the construction of buildings.
Slate for roofing.
Precious stones and fine pearls, unmounted.
Mill stones.
Live plants.
Platina, in paste or graulated.
Printing or lithographing presses.
Wooden pulps, rags and rags-waste for paper factories.
Vaccine.
Rakes and harrows for agricultural purposes.
Photographs of persons residing in the country, without frames.
Pita or jute sacks for the export of the country's fruits.
Tallow, crude or melted,
Seeds of flowers, vegetables and others not specified.
Wooden and glass roof tiles.
Thermometers.
Ink for printing.
Type for printing.
Japanese sauce, "Soy."
Plain glass, of all colors and sizes.

V.

MARBLE DEPOSITS IN COLOMBIA.

Mr. C. F. Z. Caracristi, Consulting Engineer, furnishes the following report on the marble deposits of the Cienaga District, in the Department of Magdalena, Republic of Colombia:

My investigations of these deposits have been somewhat thorough and offer scope for a much more elaborate and comprehensive report than I shall give in this statement. I shall discuss the general subject rather than elaborate on the scientific technicalities.

Resting on the granitic and basaltic rocks that form the geological plains upon which the more recent formations are stratified, and protruding through the coal measures, and separating the same for a distance of ten miles, between Rio San Juan and Rio Frio, are found the great marble deposits of the Atlantic Coast of Colombia. The stone is in a great mass, covering about sixty square miles, and rising in bluffs a thousand feet high from the sea level into the mountains of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta.

The layers of marble are from three to forty feet thick and have a "dip" of SW. 30°, and a "strike" of S. 21° 32' E. The "beds" are uniform and even, and the separating seams contain enough decomposed calcium to make the quarrying of dimension stone practical and easy.

The marble itself is a beautiful crystalline metamorphic limestone resembling in color, texture and chemical ingredients the celebrated statuary and bandillio marbles of Massa-Carrara, Italy. The crystals are of the most perfect cubes and others common to the calcium group, and the hardness of the stone is just a little above the standard average of the Italian marble. In color, the stone is white, gray, black, white with black or blue veins, gray with black or white veins, white with pink veins; etc. The "netting" of the veining is the finest I have ever seen in any quarry, and the marble is susceptible of the highest polish, and free from silica "blow holes" and other injurious substances. The stone has a smooth, even "rift" and "copes" with the precision of liniment; and withstands a crushing strain of 11,311 pounds to the inch. Chemically, the marble gives the following analysis.

Calcium.....	64.328 per cent	} =98.539 carbonate of lime.
Carbonic acid gas.....	34.211 per cent	
Magnesium carbonate.....	.425 per cent	
Alumina.....	.041 per cent	
Calcium sulphate.....	.500 per cent	
Loss, etc.....	.500 per cent	
<hr/>		
Total.....	100.000 per cent	

The above varies a little with the different colors, and I have taken the white as a standard. The other ingredients that form the color base of the veined marble are iron or manganese in the pink, carbon in several forms in the blacks, and copper and cobalt in the blue, etc. In weight, the marble is about standard, 168.5 pounds to the cubic foot.

From an industrial standpoint, the Colombian marble holds an enviable position, from the fact that the deposit is situated nearly at the center of the American Continent; is only one mile from the Carribean sea, and a few miles from the bay of Gaira, and but a day's sail from the Panama railroad, over which route shipments could be

made to the Pacific coast of the United States, and South America. The stone exists in unlimited quantities, and is by far the largest deposit yet discovered on the American Continent; and, of its class, one of the best deposits so far reported from any quarter of the globe. Its great value is in the proximity of the stone to the ocean, and the facility with which it can be transported to other sections of the American coast at reduced rates.

For example: The cost of transporting marble from the Georgia quarries to New York is about \$6, while the Colombian stone can be transported to the same port for \$3.65 per ton.

While reviewing the advantages of the Colombian marble deposits, I must call special attention to the fact that the stone would not be a competitor of any marble produced in the United States, but a competitor of the marble imported into this and other American countries, from Italy, France and Paros. The imports into the United States alone during the past year have amounted to over \$110,000, while South and Central American countries have imported even a larger quantity in the way of monuments, headstones, tiles and ornamental wares.

As in tropical countries the floors are generally tiled, the marble might be worked to fill the demands from this source. But as no marble quarry is at present being regularly operated in any of the South American countries the Colombian deposit has before it (if properly developed) the possibilities of a monopoly. By the use of Jamaica negro labor, I estimate the cost of producing a cubic foot of dimension stone at the quarry at about as follows:

	Cents.
Quarrying.....per cubic foot...	20
Sharpening and use of tools.....	2
Hoisting out of quarry.....	3
Incidentals.....	5
	—
Total per foot.....	30

Or 66 cents Colombian paper money at its present standard.

The value of the stone as taken from current prices is as follows in New York city:

	Per Cubic foot
Statuary	\$9 00
No. 1	7 50
Average	6 00
No. 2 and light "Rutland Italian"	4 25
Mottled	4 00
Best No. 3	3 50
No. 3	2 25
Light blue	2 50

The Santa Marta railroad passes within half a mile from the marble deposits of the Cienaga, and the city of San Juan de la Cienaga lies on the shores of the Caribbean Sea, only a mile north of the Marble Mountain. I consider the possibilities of the marble deposits of Colombia as worthy of investigation and attention. If placed in the proper hands and under an intelligent management, the property might be made to develop a profitable industry and add to the progress of Columbia and the advancement of its material resources.

VI.

GOVERNMENT LANDS IN MEXICO.

A bill reforming the laws relating to "Terrenos baldios," or Government lands, has been passed by the Mexican Congress.

The law which does not allow an individual to "denounce" and thus acquire more than 2,500 hectares (about 6,000 acres) of public lands is repealed. The quantity so obtainable will, therefore, be henceforth without any limit imposed by law.

All obligations to bring inhabitants to public lands are done away with.

Surveying companies are no longer to be bound to survey the lands into lots not exceeding 2,500 hectares each.

The public lands are to be classified, clearly defining those which are "baldios" (waste or idle lands), those which are national, and those which should be considered as excess, as well as those which should be taken to be surplus lands.

"Baldios," excess and surplus lands are to be sold at the prices fixed yearly.

The ordinary law of prescription is to apply to "baldios" lands, except that by "simple prescription" no one shall be able to acquire more than 5,000 hectares (about 12,000 acres) of said lands.

The possessors of lands to which they have no title are to have the prior right to buy them from the Government.

Two-thirds of the money paid for public lands are to go to the Federal Government and one-third to the particular State. The money paid for public lands situated in the Federal district and in the territories shall belong wholly to the Federal Government.

The money paid for lands classified as "National" shall go entirely to the Federal Government.

No titles granted by competent authority according to law, especially those granted by the Secretary of Fomento under the law of July 20, 1863, are to be in any way subject to revision, but are expressly ratified.

The Secretary of Fomento is authorized to deal with public lands.

In order that arrangements and compositions may be legally entered into, it will be requisite:

A. That satisfactory plans be presented.

1. That the boundaries be determined.

There shall be established in the city of Mexico an office, to be called, "Great Registry of the Property of the Republic," in which all dealings with the public lands may be registered.

Provision is also made as to the method of registration, etc.

VII.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL INFORMATION.

British Trade with South America.

"The trading and financial position of South America," says a recent issue of the *South American Journal*, of London, "has so long lain under a cloud that it is most encouraging to find a perceptible renewal of confidence in the future of those States. So far, the feeling of trust is confined mainly to the States themselves, most of which have, during the past three or four years, made strenuous

efforts to regain their lost prestige, and in doing this they are likely to be assisted by capitalists in Europe, who will always be ready to take advantage of any improved strength in South American securities. The scope for the profitable investment of capital in that Continent is so enormous that it will require very little to bring about a feeling of confidence upon this side of the Atlantic. It is an obvious fact that, with the vast agricultural possibilities in Brazil and Argentina, to say nothing of the mineral deposits to which scarcely any attention has so far been given, those countries must, in course of time, undergo a very rapid development, notwithstanding the political troubles and other impediments that at present stand in the way." After reviewing British trade relations with South American countries, the *Journal* says: "But though our business with Latin American States is so considerable, it would scarcely be wise to ignore the fact that our position is by no means secure. In Argentina, the French manufacturers threaten to gain the upper hand of their English competitors, and both the German and Belgium makers are seeking to get a footing in that country. The chief danger for the moment, however, comes from the United States, where efforts are again being made to monopolize the trade of South America. By the aid of the Bureau which was formed some time ago, manufacturers are put into communication with buyers in South America, and facilities are offered for making known their goods throughout the different States. If British makers would act with equal energy in publishing catalogues in the native languages, and quoting weights and prices which South American buyers can understand, there would be little fear of British trade being seriously interfered with by competition elsewhere."

MEXICO.

A concession granted to General Enrique Mexia and Alfonso Lancaster Jones provides for the construction of various lines of railroads in the States of Chihuahua, Sinaloa and Sonora, Mexico. One of the roads will extend from the City of Guerrero to the Mormon colonies of Juarez and Porfirio Diaz and the colony of Palomas, with the right to build a branch to the city of Chihuahua. The second road is to extend from the same point in the State of Chihuahua to the port of

Mazatlan, with branches to Topolobampo, Alamos and Guaymas, and the coal fields of Sonora. The concession covers a period of seventy-five years, and is practically for the same territory as that provided for in the concession to John Young for the road from Deming to Guaymas, which concession was forfeited some time ago.

W. H. Carlson, mayor of the town of San Diego, Cal., and president of the San Diego and Phoenix Railway Company, has obtained from the Mexican Government a concession for a railroad from a point near Lijuana, in the territory of Lower California, to Yuma, Ariz., 175 miles long, with a branch to Ensenada, Lower California, fifty miles long.

The President of Mexico has decreed that:

1. Small importations of foreign merchandise, proceeding from the towns situated in front of the Mexican custom-houses, on the frontier, and destined for the use of frontier people, shall have exemption from custom-house duties, provided that the value of the merchandise does not exceed \$50.
2. If it is discovered that the value of the merchandise is greater than \$50, a fine of double the consular dues which the certification of the invoice would require, shall be imposed.
3. The importers shall present their declaration in quadruplicate to the administrator of the custom-house in pursuance to form 47. In these declarations, all the requisites of article 44 of the tariff law shall be complied with. The ordinance was to take effect January 1.

Under date of December 22 the President of Mexico has decreed the following, affecting the law of November 11, 1893:

ARTICLE I. The affidavit that the declared value of merchandise is correct shall be made by the manufacturers or sellers at the bottom of the copy of the invoice which shall be presented to the consul or consular agent, when the manufacturers or sellers ship the merchandise direct; but if the shipper is a commission agent or other person who is not able to present the said copy, duly sworn to, then he shall sign the same at the bottom of the consular invoice, and with responsibility, the affidavit referred to.

ARTICLE II. The affidavit shall be presented in the terms provided by the laws of the country in which it is made; and as to the form, it shall be sufficient for it to stand at the bottom of the copy of the invoice or in the consular copies; but if such laws do not sanction an

affidavit made in this form, a simple declaration as to the truth signed by the interested party shall be required.

ARTICLE III. The consuls and consular agents shall annex to the copy of the consular invoice, which should remain in the archives, the document containing the affidavit or declaration, making the fact known on all copies of said invoices in these terms: "Deposited in this consulate the affidavit or declaration relating to the value of the goods."

ARTICLE IV. When the custom-house through which the importation is made has reason to suspect that the declared value of the goods is not correct, the officials shall advise the Secretary of Finance accordingly, who, previously to making the necessary investigations, shall demand from the consignee, if it should happen that an alteration in the price has taken place, the amount of the defrauded consular duties, and furthermore inflict a fine of from \$10 to \$100, the amount of which to go to the credit of the revenue.

ARTICLE V. When the consuls suspect that the declared value of the goods is not the true one, they shall at once proceed to make the necessary investigations, giving an account of the result to the Secretary of Finance, in order that he may determine whether or not the fine referred to in the last article should be imposed.

ARTICLE VI. The fine which the preceding articles impose for fraud shall be inflicted without prejudice to the criminal responsibility which the maker of the alteration shall incur in conformity with the laws of the place in which the affidavit or declaration was made.

With reference to the development of fruit-growing in Mexico, a recent number of the *Mexican Financier* says:

A few years ago, the exportation of fruit from this country to the United States was scarcely thought of; exports to that great market were confined to silver in its various forms, henequen, a small amount of coffee, etc.; but with the newer railway facilities, it has become possible to place oranges grown here in the American cities in competition with oranges grown in the American States of California and Florida, to say nothing of the fruit brought from Spain and Italy. Much of this trade has been built up by the efforts of the traffic managers of the railways, and an express company controlled by the Mexican National Railroad has specially exerted itself to find a profitable market for various fruits formerly considered to have no possible foreign market. The fruit export trade has only

begun, and we may reasonably look for a steady increase therein during many years to come; for, with the continuous growth of American cities, the market for the large variety of exportable fruits is certain to expand. If our fruit-growers will give to this business the same careful attention that is paid to it in California and Florida, in Italy and Southern Spain, by improving the existing varieties of fruits, packing with care, and generally aiding exporters, there is no reason why Mexico, with its cheap labor, may not be able to hold a large share of the American trade. Sonora and Jalisco are already considerable exporters of oranges to the United States, and it is certain that large tracts of land in Chihuahua and other northern States are well adapted to fruit culture. Experience in the southern part of California, a region quite as arid before irrigation was secured as are extensive regions in Northern Mexico, proves that scientifically managed fruit farms are exceedingly remunerative.

The Secretary of the Treasury of Mexico, Mr. Limantour, has succeeded in bringing the expenses of the Government within \$19,000 of receipts. As appears from his annual report, which was sent to the Mexican Congress recently, this has been accomplished by reducing the annual expenses \$8,053,000, and by imposing new taxes which are expected to produce the sum of \$5,675,000 per annum.

The Chinese and Mexican Commercial Company, an organization composed of wealthy Chinese, is reported to have purchased a tract of 32,000 acres in the State of Sinaloa, Mexico, on which it is proposed to settle 5,000 of their countrymen. To each colonist, will be allotted sixty-four acres of land, for which he must ultimately pay. The company is said to contemplate the establishment of factories for the manufacture of boots and shoes, clothing, brushes, brooms and cigars, and for canning fruits.

The newly-organized Mexican National Steel Company, with a capital of \$3,000,000, is now in possession of the large iron and steel plants and deposits formerly controlled by the Durango Iron Mountain Company. It is expected that Richard Honey will be chosen President. The object of the company is to operate not only the mining of the great deposit of ore at Durango, but to put in working order various manufacturing establishments already built at different points in Mexico.

A large irrigation enterprise is about to be undertaken in Mexico. A contract has been signed with Engineer Scougall for works, consisting of a dam six miles above the junction of the San Juan and Rio Grande rivers, and some hundred miles of canal and laterals, which

will, when completed, permit of the irrigation of 500,000 acres of good cotton land. The *Two Republics*, of Mexico City, says: "The residents between the cities of Camargo and Matamoros are much elated over this scheme, and justly so."

The value of Mexican exports, including precious metals, during the fiscal year 1892-93, was \$87,509,221, against \$75,467,716 during the previous year, showing an increase of \$12,041,506. Over 25 per cent of this large excess was obtained from the exports of coffee. Henequen shows an increase of over \$2,500,000, and the precious metals an increase of \$7,331,001. Only a few products have decreased in value of exports. Among these is tobacco, which shows a decrease of \$287,238.

The invention of two Japanese for the production of fine thread from nettle hemp is attracting attention in Mexico, in view of the fact that the plant may be cultivated easily in different parts of Mexico. It is claimed that the new thread is likely to supersede, to a great extent, the finest silken thread. The nettle hemp is said to be three or four times as strong as silk, and not inferior in point of lustre.

A company is to be formed under the name of "The Agricultural and Colonization Company, of Chiapas," Mexico, with a capital of \$275,000. It proposes to introduce fifty families of colonists from Ireland. Cotton and coffee will be the chief products.

HONDURAS.

The following information as to affairs in Honduras has been furnished by Mr. James J. Peterson, United States Consul at Tegucigalpa:

The Government of Honduras has ordered all persons exercising any profession or trade, to register themselves in the month of January of each year, before the municipal authorities of their respective localities, stating their nationality, their place of residence, their age, their civil status or condition, and their profession or trade. This rule applies to all, whether citizens or foreigners. The latter will be exempted only in case of their being merely in transit. Each person so registered shall be provided with a ticket or certificate,

which shall be renewed every year, and for which the following fees shall be paid: Two dollars in case of scientific profession, commercial business or manufacturing industry; one dollar in case of trade of any kind if the registered artisan keeps shop; fifty cents if the registered artisan does not keep a shop. Simple laborers shall pay nothing for their certificate. The failure to register shall be punished by fines ranging from ten to fifty dollars and imprisonment if the fine is not paid. The laborers have to make all their contracts with their employer in writing, and two copies shall be made of the agreement, one for the laborer and another for the employer. If the agreement involves a compensation exceeding \$25, stamped paper has to be used. Whenever an employer finds himself in need of laborers whose services he is unable to secure otherwise, he may, on application to the Governor of the district, or to the Alcalde of the municipality, obtain the impressment into his service of a certain number of laborers. This forced labor will last no more than one month in each case, and will not relieve the employer from paying the laborer the proper wages. The refusal to do work under these circumstances, unless a proper excuse has been alleged and granted, shall be punished with imprisonment. This new law, called "A law providing rules and regulations for labor," came into force on January 1, 1894.

The Government of Honduras, by decree of December 5, 1893, has directed all the creditors of the State, on whatever grounds, to appear before the Secretary of the Treasury within the period of a month, to be counted from December 15 ult., and file their bonds, coupons, notes, bills, or any other evidence of indebtedness, in order that the same may be entered upon a register to be kept for this purpose. The failure on the part of the creditors to comply with this decree shall cause the payment of the unregistered debt to be postponed, and no interest shall be paid on account of this postponement.

Arrangements have been made at Tegucigalpa, the capital of Honduras, for the construction of a street railway, and Don Carlos D. Beyer has been sent to the United States to secure material and everything else required for this undertaking.

An effort is being made by General Vasquez, the President of the Republic, to liquidate the domestic or internal debt of Honduras. It has been found thus far that the said debt amounts to \$3,587,120.74;

but it is apprehended that when the investigation is ended that amount will be increased to \$5,000,000.

The Republic of Honduras, for the purpose of promoting agriculture, and especially the cultivation of coffee, cacao and India-rubber trees, has ordered a premium of 5 cents per tree in the case of coffee, and 10 cents per tree in the case of cacao and India rubber, to be paid all farmers who have planted in their respective States, either 5,000 coffee trees, at least, or 2,000 cacao or India-rubber trees. To secure this premium, the farmer shall apply to the local authority, called *alcalde*, who shall at once proceed, accompanied by two witnesses of unimpeachable character, to examine the plantation of the applicant, and, upon the result of his personal investigation, the proper certificate shall be issued and delivered to the farmer. The collector of revenue of the province shall pay, on presentation of this certificate, in coin, the amount of the premium which corresponds to the number of trees. The premium shall be paid even if the farmer has been granted any other privilege or exemption or recompense for the cultivation of the same trees.

The Government of Honduras has established a tax of 25 cents per *manzana* (about two acres) on all mining concessions, whether already granted or to be granted in the future, either to natives or foreigners. The tax is to be paid annually, in the month of January, to the collectors of revenue of the respective districts, and the amount of money raised by this means shall be used to pay the premium granted to the cultivators of coffee, cacao and India-rubber trees. The failure to pay this tax in the period of time established, shall cause the concession to be forfeited.

BRITISH HONDURAS.

A recent number of the *Colonial Guardian*, of Belize, British Honduras, says: We are glad to hear that arrangements for the establishment of mail communication between New York and Belize are approaching completion: for there were rumors about that there was a deadlock in the negotiations between the mail contractor and the Government. We presume that this service will include Jamaica: otherwise, the arrangement will be a comparatively unim-

portant one, for the only means of getting laborers for the development of the agricultural resources of the colony is by communication with the West Indian Islands. The *Colonial Guardian* also expresses its gratification at the prospect of an attempt to render the Belize River navigable, "for no enterprise," it says, "would tend so much to develop the agricultural resources of British Honduras, except the construction of a railway through Crown Lands to the frontier, as the establishment of steam navigation between Belize and the Cayo."

The same newspaper publishes a dispatch from Lord Ripon, British Secretary of State for the Colonies, granting the request of the people of Honduras that a gold standard be adopted for the currency of the Colonies. Lord Ripon requests that the Colonial Government shall submit to him its final views as to the measure of value which should be adopted, and says the choice clearly lies between the gold dollar of the United States of America and the British sovereign, and inclines to the adoption of the latter.

At a public meeting held in Belize subsequently, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That this committee is of opinion that the gold dollar of the United States of America should be the future measure of value in this Colony; that the gold coins of the said States and the paper currency of the said States which, by the law of the said States is redeemable in gold, be legal tender to any extent; that the silver coins of the said States be legal tender to the extent of \$10, and no more, and all other coins of the said States to the extent of 50 cents, and no more.
2. That this committee is of opinion that the Colonial Government should issue demand notes of denominations varying from \$1 to \$100 against a sufficient specie reserve in the Colonial Treasury.
3. That this committee is of opinion that the proposed change of standard should not interfere with existing contracts, but that the determination and settlement of these should be left to voluntary arrangement.

The Governor of British Honduras suggests that a bank may be established in the Colony on the change of the currency from a silver to a gold standard.

BRITISH WEST INDIES.

The Bureau of the American Republics has received a full synopsis of the report of the Collector-General of Jamaica for 1892-93. From

this report, it appears that during the year 1892-93, which was the first complete annual period under the operations of the revised tariff with the United States, the amount of duty fell off, as compared with the previous year, but it was £17,000 in excess of the average of the five years ending March 31, 1890. With regard to the value of the imports for the year, the figures, it is stated, show a satisfactory increase. The imports are divided into four classes: Food and drink, raw material, manufactured articles, and coin and bullion. The third class, manufactured articles, represented 55 per cent of the total. The largest proportion of the first class, food and drink, was drawn from the United States. In fact, rather more than one-half in value of imported food and drink was furnished by this country. Canada is also largely drawn upon, Great Britain supplying only one-fifth. But in manufactured articles, Great Britain leads, 75 per cent of the goods being imported from that source. Of the total imports entered for home consumption, Great Britain contributed in value 52 per cent and the United States 34. A large increase is noted in the trade in imported cattle which has sprung into prominence within recent years. South America and Cuba are the sources of this supply. On few items, it is stated, has the change in the tariff told with greater effect than on refined sugar. The remission of the duty has caused the quantity imported to increase more than five-fold during the year. The exports from Jamaica show a considerable increase, due to greater outputs of what are now becoming the staple products of the Island, such as coffee, cacao, pimento, etc. The increase in cacao is especially noticeable, the value of the quantity exported last year being double that shipped four years ago. Coffee also shows a steady growth in quantity and value. Bananas and oranges show a considerable increase. The exports of honey have doubled in value since 1889. There was a decrease (though not a marked one) in the quantity of sugar exported. The export of woods, such as lacewood spars, bitter wood, fustic and logwood, shows a large increase.

The practicability of producing a good article of tea for commerce in the Island of Jamaica, is attracting attention there. The climate and soil are said to be well adapted, and tea of good quality grows rapidly in the Island. The difficulty in the way of tea cultivation is the want of labor, but in those districts where the proper kind of labor

can be secured, the plant, it is thought, might be grown successfully. The Kingston *Gleaner* says that good tea grown in the Island would find a market in the United States, and that in view of the favorable conditions for establishing the industry, it is thought to be strange that no effort in the matter has been made.

A select committee appointed to consider the question of the establishment of a labor bureau in the colony of Trinidad, British West Indies, has reported to the Colonial Government that, with the view of protecting the colony against the introduction of vagrants and other undesirable immigrants, it is important that the bureau be established. The report recommends that the bureau be under the supervision of the Immigration Department; that a depot shall be provided, to which all "Deckers" arriving at the port shall be sent immediately on landing, and where they will be subjected to medical and police inspection. After this, they will be taken in charge by an officer of the bureau whose duty it shall be to ascertain those who are in quest of employment, and the nature of the employment desired, and, so far as possible, to put them in the way of obtaining it. To this end, a register, showing the names and addresses of all applicants for employment, is to be kept at the depot, and planters, householders, shopkeepers, etc., are to be asked to communicate with the depot if they are in quest of servants, laborers or shopmen. Ordinary traders or hucksters may be exempted from the requirements of the law regulating the bureau.

From a report on the trade and finances of the British Colony of St. Vincent, West Indies, it appears that the revenue of the colony in 1892, showed an increase of about \$2,000. The opinion is expressed that while this increase is but slight, it is, nevertheless, satisfactory, in view of the new fiscal arrangements necessitated by the McKinley tariff agreement. The revenue laws passed in connection with this agreement involved an estimated decline in certain import duties of \$8,000, less an increase in duties on spirits of 6d. a gallon. The net loss of revenue by import duties was about \$5,700. The general revenue, however, was sustained, against this loss, by the increase in the duty on imported spirits, a similar increase of the excise duty on the native spirit (rum), and an increase in the export duty on sugar. The trade with the United States shows a decrease of imports into St. Vincent of about \$5,600. The direct

trade with the United States which existed in 1891 was discontinued in 1892, and merchandise imported from the United States was carried via Barbados and treated in the customs returns as imports from that colony. The decrease therefore is regarded as merely nominal. The value of exports in 1892 was about \$590,000, showing an excess over 1891 of about \$95,000.

NICARAGUA.

In a letter to the United States Department of State, Dr. J. Crawford, of Managua, Nicaragua, calls attention to the existence in the northern and central mountainous parts of that country of large areas of coffee lands of excellent quality, evidently capable of annually yielding large crops—two and one-half to four pounds per tree, of an excellent aroma coffee. About 5,000,000 coffee trees, he says, "have been planted in that district, of which about 3,500,000 trees have been planted by our people (principally Californians, Coloradans, and Georgians). There yet remain many thousands of acres of those national, unoccupied lands suitable for coffee growing. Also, there are yet unoccupied in Nicaragua many thousands of acres of land admirably adapted to the cultivation of the cacao (theobroma) tree—a native or indigenous tree here."

CHILE.

A synopsis of the prospectus of a company for the manufacture of iron and steel in Chile, based upon the concession granted by the Chilean Congress to Charles E. Lister, has been received. Mr. Lister is granted for three years, free, all the scrap iron and steel belonging to the State, and pieces of rail not exceeding sixty centimeters in length, the three years to count from the time the works may be in running order. At the conclusion of this period, the owners of the concession will be entitled, during a further period of fifteen years, to the same materials, subject to the payment of a nominal price of 7s. 6d. per ton. They will also be entitled, during ten years, to import, duty free, sulphuric acid, muriatic acid, borate of soda, sal

ammoniac, and metallic antimony to a total value of \$15,000 per annum, and the sole and free use of 100 meters of sea frontage in the Bay of Talcahuano for twenty-five years. It is proposed to erect the works at Talcahuano, in close proximity to the bay, and the sea frontage granted will be used for wharves and warehouses. Mr. Lister estimates that 10,000 tons may be produced from the scrap iron available in Chile. The capital of the company is \$1,000,000. Heretofore, the scrap iron of Chile has been sold at a very low figure and exported. It is hoped that the company will lead to the development and extension of iron manufacture in Chile, and that ultimately, it will be to the company's interest to produce iron from the ore.

The Chilean Government has agreed to raise from 4 per cent to 5 per cent a guarantee given to the Messrs. Clark on the capital to be expended in building the Chilean portion of the Trans-Andine railway. It was stated that if this guarantee was secured, the work of completing this great trunk line between Buenos Ayres and the principal points in Chile, would be carried forward energetically. The distance to be completed is some thirty miles, but, as this includes very heavy construction in the Andes, considerable time must elapse before it is finished.

The municipality of Santiago, the Chilean capital, has granted a concession to Senor S. Ossa for the construction of an electric tramway between that city and San Bernardo. It is also stated that the gas company of Valparaiso will shortly provide the principal streets of that port with electric light.

AMERICAN TRADE IN ECUADOR.*

The advisable course to pursue in order to foster a trade with these countries (Guayaquil being the commercial metropolis for a vast extent of territory) would be to send hither competent men, who speak Spanish, to study the necessities of the trade and report to their employers. One man at first might represent several branches of trade. The Government can never build up a trade with these countries. Our countrymen formerly had an instinct for foreign trade: they must cultivate it anew.

* From Advance Sheets of United States Consular Reports, February, 1864

There is a great field here for our simplest agricultural implements—plows, hoes, etc. The machete is the agricultural implement used here. If a live man were sent here with plows, hoes, and other simple implements of agriculture, prepared to go on the haciendas and show the people how to use them, and the immense gain in using them, I do not think the result would be doubtful.

I have never seen corn meal in Ecuador: it is unknown, at least in the vicinity of Guayaquil, and yet large quantities of corn are produced. Corn mills might be introduced, with little expense, into the corn-producing regions, such as that of the rich lands on the Boliche river, where I ate several meals at a great hacienda where there was not seen a crumb of bread except what our party carried along. Yet on this place were hundreds of bushels of very fine corn. *Yuca* is used instead of bread. It is a great root, somewhat like the sweet potato of our Southern States, but not so good.

I make these observations to indicate what might be accomplished by a little enterprise properly directed.

GEO. G. DILLARD,

Consul General.

GUAYAQUIL, *November 4, 1893.*

A commission has been appointed to revise and correct the tariff of Ecuador, which is said to be faulty in many respects. As an instance, the fact is cited that common wood mouthpieces pay the same high duty (which is levied on the gross weight) as pure amber-cigar-holders. Ron, a common name for raw spirits, is a prohibited article, and the same prohibition is applied to Jamaica rum, which is not manufactured in Ecuador. These and other anomalies, it is hoped, will be corrected by the commission.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Information has been received of the results of the expedition of Mr. R. Fowler MacKenzie to the headwaters of the Amazon, in Peru. Mr. MacKenzie went out in August, 1892, as special commissioner to the Peruvian Corporation for the purpose of exploring, opening up with roads and bridges and placing suitable colonists in the lands of the Corporation, situated mostly on the rivers Perene and Tambo.

Mr. MacKenzie speaks of the territory as one of great promise as a coffee growing center. The climate he describes as suitable for Europeans, the soil fertile and covered with valuable timber. Cattle may be raised on the more open lands. He built some forty kilometers of road and a number of bridges. A township, called Denville, has been founded and some thirty colonists' families are established on lands. Steam communication from the Perene territory to the Amazon was one of the chief objects of Mr. MacKenzie's efforts, and he expresses the opinion that this may be obtained in spite of the obstacle of the cascades on the Perene.

Dr. William Stewart, British consul in Paraguay, speaks favorably of the prospects of the Australian colony recently established in that country. It is situated about ten leagues from Villarica in a high region. Dr. Stewart reports that the Australians are engaged in baking bricks, ploughing land and sowing mandioca, maize, tobacco, etc. They are said to be total abstainers from alcoholic drinks. The severest discipline is enforced, and all profits of the colony are to be divided equally among the members. Six hundred more Australians were reported to be on the way out to join the colony. Whatever may be the economic results of this experiment, it is thought the presence in Paraguay of these industrious immigrants can not fail to be beneficial.

Two laws have recently been passed by the Congress of the Argentine Republic: one to repress the manufacture of bogus wines, which has assumed considerable proportions under the stimulus of high import duties; the other for the liquidation of the old National Bank, with liabilities amounting to \$30,000,000 currency, as regards the public, exclusive of \$80,000,000 currency due to the National Treasury. No estimate is given of what the assets may realize.

The President of the Argentine Republic, has promulgated a decree approving the extradition treaty with Italy drawn up in 1886, but only just sanctioned by the Argentine Congress. An extradition treaty with England, which has been pending for five years, has recently received the sanction of the Senate, and is expected to receive that of the deputies.

The Italian Steamship Company "La Veloce" has given notice that beginning January 1, 1894, and on the 1st of each following month, a steamer of the company will be dispatched from Genoa, calling at

a port in Spain, St. Thomas, West Indies; La Guayra, Venezuela; Cartagena and Colon, Colombia, visiting the same ports on the return journey. The company also proposes to establish a subsidiary line of steamers in connection with the main line, to trade between St. Thomas, the West Indies and Central American ports, with headquarters at St. Thomas.

The President of Guatemala, on the 6th of November, laid the foundation stone of the station at Guatemala City of the Northern railway, which line, when completed, will connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. A Belgian engineer is to have charge of the works on the south end of the line. Satisfactory progress on the northern sections is reported. The physical difficulties are said to be far fewer and the progress of the works much more rapid than was anticipated.

A syndicate of American capitalists has recently made a proposal to the Government of Bolivia, to take charge of a series of enterprises, of which the principal are the working of the rubber forests, the making of roads, and the establishment of a mint and a bank.

Statistics have been received of the foreign commerce of the Republic of Uruguay, for the third quarter of the year 1893. These show the total imports to have been \$4,918,593, and the total exports, \$5,442,457. For the same period of 1892, the imports were \$4,651,124, and the exports, \$3,520,447. While the increase in imports has been slight, the exports have increased by nearly \$2,000,000. For the first nine months of 1893, the imports amounted to about \$15,000,000, and the exports to \$21,500,000, making the excess of exports, \$6,500,000.

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