

THE RIO NEWS.

PUBLISHED ON THE 5th, 15th AND 24th OF EVERY MONTH.

Vol. VIII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 24TH, 1881

NUMBER 30

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—25, Rua do Marquês d'Araozes
JOHN C. WHITE,
Chargé d'Affaires.
BRITISH LEGATION.—No. 135, A., Laranjeiras.
EDWIN CORBETT,
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AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 30, Rua do
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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 30, Rua de
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BRAZILIAN LOTTERIES.

On the 12th instant the Positivist Society of this city addressed a formal representation to the prime minister against the further continuance of lotteries. The basis upon which this representation is placed—and it is an eminently good one—is that the government of a country should be subordinate to the laws of morality, and that no governing or legislating power should admit a practice into its administration or legislation which is inimical to those laws and which may prove a source of public demoralization. They assert—and with truth—that no government should employ means which affect public morality, and corrupt the sentiments of the people. They assert—and with truth—that the lottery is a demoralizing influence, that it corrupts the people, that it lowers the standard of public and private morality, and that, therefore, the government has no right, whatever may be the political, economic or humanitarian pretext, to authorize and permit its employment.

And yet, notwithstanding this manly protest we have had the edifying spectacle during the past three weeks of a gigantic lottery in this city conducted under government auspices, drawn in the department of the national sinking fund, and paid in the national treasury. The drawings of this lottery interrupted the business of the sinking fund department for a period of six days—to say nothing of the time consumed in the preparations—and was the occasion of a disgraceful street riot in front of the building where it was taking place. And in the payment of the prizes, we have had the shameful spectacle during the past week of the national treasury, with its force of public employees, being wholly engaged in this business. Whatever may have been the needs of public administration it has weighed as nothing against this gigantic lottery. The legitimate business of the hour has been thrust aside, and two public departments of a great empire have devoted their attention to the management and liquidation of this great gambling scheme—a scheme no less demoralizing and reprehensible than those which have given character to Monaco and Baden-Baden.

Civilized governments long ago learned the vicious tendencies of gambling and accordingly enacted laws for its rigid suppression; Brazil on the contrary legalizes the practice and plays the part of the croupier. She passes laws to regulate the drawing of lotteries, grants legislative permission for them, delegates salaried public officials to look after them, draws a net income of twenty-five per cent. gross from them besides levying other small percentages, gives up a part of the national printing office to the drawings, permits the use of the national coat of arms upon an elaborate machine for the drawings, and now turns over both the sinking fund and treasury departments to the last and greatest lottery of all. It is a record of shame! The government not only legalizes the impoverishment and corruption of the people, but it draws profit from the shameful practice.

It creates a greedy craving for unearned wealth; it encourages idleness and vice; it sanctions the waste of the poor man's savings.

Upon the government itself, therefore, must rest the responsibility for all the idleness, industrial stagnation, vice, misery and crime which grow out of this unwholesome mania—and it is a responsibility which will sometime exact a settlement in the utter humiliation and shame of the whole country. It is no idle whim on the part of civilized nations that they have enacted the most stringent laws against this practice, nor upon the part of economists and philosophers that they have denounced it with the strongest terms of human language. There has been ample cause and the best reason for every step that has been taken. And yet, the government of this country ignores all this, and sanctions a practice which the best and purest sentiment of the day condemns.

Is it possible that Brazil expects to reverse the decision of the civilized world, and to transform this instrument of evil into an instrument of good? Does she believe that the conditions of life here are such as to reverse the evil influence which has been accorded to the lottery elsewhere? Or is it ignorance, or indifference, or contrariness which actuates her present course? It does not seem possible that the Emperor and his ministers are ignorant of the sentence which the civilized world has pronounced upon this vice; still less does it seem possible that they would maliciously impose it upon the country. Then why is it done? Will they defend the practice? or are they indifferent as to its results as long as the treasury derives profit from it? Some reason should and must be given. The evil is growing upon the country day by day, and its evil influences are felt in every occupation and station of life. It is robbing the people both of money and character, and it is slowly but surely dragging the country down to a depth of shame and misery from which it will never recover. Is it not time, therefore, that the Emperor and his ministers should make some exertion—even though it be but a moral one—to stem this tide of evil, and to place the country and its government upon a higher and more honorable plane.

THE NEW ANTIDOTE.

We have been favored by Dr. J. B. de Lacerda, sub-director of the section of experimental physiology in the Museu Nacional, with the following account of the discovery of an antidote against the venom of poisonous snakes which promises to result in the greatest possible good to mankind.

I have been occupied more than three years with studies relative to the nature and physiological action of the poison furnished by different species of snakes in Brazil, and I am now ready to prove by numerous experimental facts that not only is the venom a digestive ferment (*fermento digestivo*) acting with the greatest energy upon the albuminoids and fats, but also that its effects are completely neutralized by permanganate of potassa. This last discovery has caused

a general enthusiasm, not only among scientific men, but also, and principally, among those persons who are habitually subject to the attacks of poisonous snakes. In Brazil, notwithstanding the absolute lack of statistics, it is known that there die every year, in the interior, a great number of individuals from the inoculation of that terrible venom, besides the animals who are decimated in the grazing campos and on the plantations.

I have published the results of numerous experiments, at which were present His Majesty Dom Pedro II, the minister of agriculture, members of the foreign diplomatic corps, besides a large number of the physicians and well-informed personages of Rio de Janeiro. These experiments were made on dogs, by injecting the venom into their veins. This venom, furnished by various individuals of the genus *Bothrops*, was collected in cotton, and afterwards dissolved, by the maceration of the cotton saturated with it, in a small quantity of distilled water. The injection having been made into the veins of the dog, it was immediately followed with the most violent convulsions, the respiration being decreased, as also the action of the heart. Under these conditions there were injected into the veins 2 cubic cent. of my filtrated solution of permanganate of potassa at 1-100. The phenomena ceased, and after a prostration which lasted from fifteen to twenty minutes, the animal was entirely restored to his normal condition. If the injection of venom into the veins was immediately followed by the injection of permanganate of potassa, the effects of the poison were almost nothing.

With the inoculation of the venom in cellular fabric and the subsequent injection of permanganate of potassa into the same, still the effects were almost nothing. Many comparative experiments were made to prove that the same quantity of venom, neutralized by permanganate of potassa, being injected by itself, caused the death of the animal more or less promptly.

It is now known that applications have been made upon men with the best results; one especially speaks with eloquence in favor of the antidote and was published in the *Journal do Commercio* of August 10.

FOREIGN COMMERCE OF NEW ORLEANS

The following shows the foreign commerce of New Orleans by months during the fiscal year closing June 30th, 1881:

1880	Exports.	Imports.
July	\$3,949,953	\$731,904
August	2,824,435	604,125
September	4,853,993	293,515
October	8,785,191	1,381,449
November	11,250,006	1,933,445
December	15,701,883	1,343,006
1881		
January	10,699,470	820,545
February	11,093,474	865,591
March	10,008,341	1,100,419
April	11,279,251	1,052,881
May	7,015,512	1,870,227
June	6,073,260	916,833

Total \$103,541,767 \$12,213,920
It will be observed that notwithstanding the reduction in the price of cotton, averaging at least 20 per cent, the value of the exports has largely exceeded the figures of the preceding twelve months. The imports show a handsome gain, and are the largest for several years past. The combined imports and exports show an increase over the preceding year of \$11,500,000. These figures compare as follows with those of the two preceding seasons:

	1880-81.	1879-80.	1878-79.
Exports.....	\$103,541,767	\$93,335,880	\$63,624,797
Imports.....	12,213,920	10,915,052	8,141,989
Total.....	\$115,755,687	\$104,250,922	\$70,766,686

MUNICIPAL ECONOMICS.

When we ventured the suggestion, a year or so ago, that our city fathers would soon begin to regulate and tax washerwomen, we thought of it more as a possibility than as a probability. At that time the vexatious and petty regulations had just been passed which were intended to make all bootblacks subordinate to a privileged monopoly, and through that agency to pay taxes to the city. Before that time another regulation had been enforced compelling all public porters to take out a license, for which they paid the city well, as a matter of course. It was a logical conclusion, therefore, that the washerwomen might also fall under a similar misfortune. Whether the tax would be imposed through a patent tub, or a washing machine, or a wringer, or a washing fluid, we could not decide; but still there was the field and the possibility. It was clearly evident, however, that any tax on this class, lucrative as it might promise to be, could not easily be enforced. As a rule our washerwomen—and their families—are not property-owners. They belong to the poorest class, and as far as ownership goes are almost wholly destitute of personal effects. The circumstance that they generally appear well-dressed on a Sunday proves nothing more than that someone's washing will not be delivered until Wednesday. To enforce a tax on such a class, therefore, would simply be wasted time and effort, unless the city fathers see fit—and we trust this will not suggest anything to their minds—to seize upon the clothing in the transitory process of being cleansed. Should such a thing be done the damage and inconvenience would be incalculable! It might even result in the payment of many a defaulted wash bill, and the public sale of many an unredeemable shirt.

In justice to the illustrious aldermen who now preside over the destinies of this city, it should be said that no tax has yet been imposed upon washerwomen. The good fathers undoubtedly appreciate this necessary class of workers in every sense of the word, and as their wardrobes are large and their labors arduous and multifarious it is reasonable to suppose that they will spare the tax until the needs of state will no longer admit of such indulgence. The step just taken is only the initial one, and simply imposes such regulations as seem desirable for the public good, and for the wholesome discipline and control of the washerwomen themselves. This accomplished, the second step will follow as a matter of course, and then we shall have the license law and patent tub regulations in full blast. In the following ordinance, which was introduced into the city council by Dr. Hermogenio on the 13th inst., there is much that is wise, and much that is otherwise. The ordinance—and it is only a project as yet—reads as follows:

UPON THE WASHING OF CLOTHING.

ARTICLE I.—The washing of clothing will be prohibited in *cartigos* which within the period of three months are not provided with laundries specially constructed in accordance with any of the plans which are exhibited in the audience room of the department of works, or with other dispositions and arrangements which merit the approval of the council after consulting the central board of public hygiene.

ART. II.—The abundance of water and the facility of drainage will be essential conditions in these laundries.

ART. III.—The number of tanks should be equal to the number of habitations which constitute the *cartigo*.

ART. IV.—The keeping of wet clothing within the habitations will be prohibited, the laundry being required to have a special room for this purpose.

ART. V.—The washerwomen will be prohibited to wash in the tanks in common, and to mix the clothing of their respective customers.

ART. VI.—The clothing of persons ill should be isolated from that of others, and washed separately.

ART. VII.—The washerwomen who receive cloth-

ing from hospitals, health establishments, infirmaries, etc., should employ themselves exclusively in this specialty, it being forbidden to them to receive clothing, for washing, from any other persons.

ART. VIII.—The washerwomen of which the preceding article treats, should be inscribed in a special book in the office of the fiscal of the respective parish, who will be obliged to transmit annually to the council and to the parish sanitary commission a report containing their names, residences, etc.

ART. IX.—The proprietors, or administrators of hospitals, health establishments, infirmaries, etc., will be obliged to declare to the competent municipal authorities the name and residence of the washerwomen whom they employ.

ART. X.—The infractor of any one of the preceding articles will incur a fine of 30\$, and the penalty of eight days imprisonment.

ART. XI.—The council will have copies of this ordinance annually posted in the interior of the *cartigos* of this city.

DR. HERMOGENIO.

Rio, 13th October, 1881.

And then, when the hospital washerwomen are all registered and reported, and all the others are penned up in the officially-approved wash-houses, how easy it will be to impose a moderate tax for all this paternal supervision! In a short time those "black and white studies" which have so long characterized the Campo de Sant'Anna will all be swept away, and one other landmark will have passed into history. Then, too, the bits of bright color and cleanliness which grace many a back yard and many a *cartigo* quadrangle will soon be driven in doors, and the only objects upon which the eye can dwell with any sense of relief will have passed away forever. No one who has not spent some time in this city can imagine the sense of relief which one feels, after passing miles of glaring whitewash, in seeing a grass plot covered with snowy garments, or a line well filled with bandana handkerchiefs. And it is all this which Dr. Hermogenio proposes to banish from the open air and into other whited sepulchers as ugly and unnecessary as anything yet built.

We cannot say that it is a job, for we do not know it. But who are to build these laundries? and who are to furnish the plans? Surely the poor washerwomen, whose necessities often compel them to even borrow the clothing they wear, can not do it; nor can they afford to pay rents for the use of any such privileges. The owners of the *cartigos* will not do it unless there is some corresponding remuneration, and that these poor people can not meet. In a very large percentage of the *cartigos* of this city, the terms of this by-law would require a laundry almost large enough for a city hall—that is if a tank is to be provided for each habitation, and a room for all the drying clothes. It is all well enough to require the separation of hospital work from every other, but that could easily be done through the hospital authorities themselves without puzzling these poor creatures about parish registry, annual reports, fines, and all the rest of it. The aldermen might as well say that they shall not pound the clothes on a board, or wear them on a saint's day, or occasionally lose a button! It is noteworthy, in this sense, that when our city fathers are attacked with a fit of sanitary reform they invariably pitch into the dwelling places and occupations of the poorest and most helpless classes, and in so doing impose upon them such incomprehensible regulations as serve only to mystify and entangle the poor creatures whom it is designed to regulate.

As all this is designed for the public good as well as the instruction and well-being of the washerwomen, it is quite sure to be accepted and adopted without comment. And then after a brief effort to carry it into effect, it will quietly drop into the dusty background where so many municipal ordinances lie forgotten. Its only future

lies in the possible license, of which it may be nothing more than the forerunner. But should it be enforced, there are many things in it for which the linen-soiling public will be indeed grateful. It will be pleasant to think that the washerwoman has at last been brought within the provisions of the law and that an ordinance has been devoted to her special benefit which will require at least one fiscal at every washerwoman's elbow. It will also be agreeable to think that a separate tank will be devoted to our special invoice of linen, that no other garments, especially from the hospital, can be mixed up with ours, and that there must be a special building, plenty of water, and plenty of drainage to assist in the process of cleansing. But at the same time, it is to be regretted that the fiscals are not empowered to suppress profanity and quarrelling during work hours, for one's clothing often becomes so impregnated with these gross improprieties that swearing and contentiousness become purely involuntary. The washerwoman should be enjoined to attend church regularly, to dress herself neatly, and to adapt her language to the moral and mental necessities of her costumers. And above all things, she should rigidly refrain from gossip, for of all social ailments this is probably the most infectious. The epidemics of gossip which have again and again swept over this devoted city, are almost wholly due to washerwomen and the street water taps. There's poison enough in two neighborly washerwomen, or in one street water tap, to inoculate a whole neighborhood. And, too, the city should have made some provisions against the use of one's garments by the washerwoman's family and friends, and against this devastating mortality among buttons. It can not be expected that a hastily-constructed by-law will include all possible contingencies, but for the omission of such evils as these there can possibly be no excuse. If it be not too late we trust that Dr. Hermogenio will take these matters into consideration before the final passage of his proposed laundry regulations.

From *The Grocer*, New York, August 13.

THE COFFEE AND SUGAR PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

MAURITIUS AND RÉUNION.

Although the former is an island belonging to the British, and the latter to the French, we shall speak of both because they are situated so close together, and form the Mascarenes group, east of Madagascar, South Africa, just within the tropic. Previous to the Napoleonic wars they were both French, Mauritius being called *Isle de France*, and Réunion *Bourbon*.

This group was discovered by the Portuguese under Mascarenhas in 1505, Mauritius being called by them *Aerno*. In 1598 the Dutch conquered these islands, and in honor of Prince Maurice, of Nassau, gave Mauritius the name it bears at present. In 1720 they evacuated the group; the ensuing year the French took possession of it, holding both islands till 1810, when the British captured Mauritius. The latter was secured to England by the peace of Paris in 1814, while France retained Réunion.

Under George IV, 1825, the equalization of the sugar duties took place, *i. e.* Mauritius sugars were admitted into England on the same footing as those from the West Indies, which had the effect of stimulating sugar planting in Mauritius and advancing it to its present remarkable success. When slavery was abolished the planters first commenced introducing coolies from the East Indies, being restricted for some time to the single port of Calcutta for their supply.

SUGAR PRODUCTION IN MAURITIUS.

Year	tons	Year	tons
1813	240	1844	28,600
1818	3,540	1845	37,600
1824	14,711	1846	49,100
1827	17,840	1847	64,100
1830	24,080	1849	50,782
1832	26,314	1851	55,000
1836	31,220	1852	55,080
1843	24,400	1858	125,000

Now Mauritius possesses about as many coolies as the planters require while steadily extending cane

cultivation and multiplying sugar houses and the cost of machinery. Hurricanes are, however, of frequent occurrence, and so are droughts. Partial crop failures thus often take place. Putting aside these unavoidable periodical draw-backs, there is no colony on the face of the earth in which British enterprise has obtained as marvellous results in sugar production as in this favorite island of the extreme South. This is, of course, also largely due to its excellent geographical position, which enables Mauritius to ship to Europe, to the Cape, to the United States, and to India and Australia. If, therefore, the planter chooses to consign he has a variety of markets at his disposal and may distribute his risks. The present rate of production requires 80,000 coolie laborers, while only 14,000 tons in the old slavery times required 30,000 able-bodied negroes. To Mauritius, at least, emancipation has, therefore, proved a boon instead of being ruinous. But, then, no country can procure India coolies with as much ease and upon as favorable terms, for the coolies like to work in a colony where so many of them are advantageously employed, and as they are very intelligent they furnish in every respect the most desirable labor, greatly preferable to the negro freedman.

Although Réunion is larger and more fertile even than Mauritius, this French island turns out on an average only about 36,000 tons of sugar. This is in part in due to the circumstance that a greater frequency of hurricanes and droughts renders sugar planting there more precarious—in part it must be attributed to lack of enterprise and capital, and less facility in getting coolies. For the past few years the French have, however, begun to trouble themselves a great deal more about their colonies near and distant. Everything has since been taken in hand vigorously in Réunion; both the French people and government take more interest in the welfare and progress of this beautiful island; large amounts of money are spent on railroads and harbor improvements, and it is as good as certain that henceforward Réunion will become more important as a sugar-producing country year after year. The time will indeed not be distant when both islands will be covered with sugar plantations to the same extent as Barbadoes, when their crops will form a factor in sugar production not to be overlooked.

Mauritius measures 739 square miles; its dependencies, the Tschelles, 286. The former has a population of 354,623 inhabitants, and the latter count 13,391 souls, forming together a population of 368,074, there being some 80,000 more males than females, which is due to the presence of so many coolie laborers. The income of Mauritius in 1878 was £790,000, and the outlay £735,000; the debt amounted to £700,000; the import was £2,229,000, and the export £3,777,000, the maritime movement being 564,000 tons. Railroads in operation January 1, 1879, 66 miles. Réunion measures 760 square miles, and has a population of only 182,130 souls, or about half that of Mauritius. There are about 50,000 more males than females. The import into Réunion in 1877 was 23,227,000 francs worth of goods, and the export 31,192,000 francs, while the entries were 215 vessels and the sailings 220.

Both islands are capable of producing most other articles grown within the tropics. Many experiments have been successfully made with fine species in particular—especially in Réunion—cloves and Vanilla beans being the most prominent, but the same as cotton in our Southern States, sugar absorbs pretty much everything.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the *Buenos Aires Herald*, October 7.

—It is affirmed, we know not on what authority, that the government of Entre Rios has been notified by the national government to advise Colonel Latorre that he cannot be permitted to reside on the coast of Uruguay. It is difficult nevertheless to realize that the government of any country, free or otherwise, can undertake to hold any one that the Montevideo government is afraid of. It places both governments in a very undignified light.

—The French gunboat *Talisman* which has just left Montevideo for the Santa Cruz river, goes to take plans and make an estimate of the ruined establishment of the French subject M. Rouquard, which was made a wreck of in 1874 by the Chilean squadron. Ever since that event, the French legation has been working over the affair with the view of seeing M. Rouquard compensated in accordance with the terms of the guarantee he holds.

—The expropriation of the Riachuelo port works, now held by the province, was voted on the 5th, and a loan of four millions was authorized at 5 per cent. to pay the province for the same. Following this, came on the Woodgate dock scheme, about which there was a disagreement among the committee who reported it, and the minister of war having read a letter from Mr. Woodgate, stating that the bill, as presented by the committee, could not be accepted if it passed, the bill was recommitted to the committee.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The September receipts of the *mesa de rendas* *geraes* of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, amounted to 27,040\$155.

—The Visconde de Guarapuava has given the sum of 1,200\$ to the provincial government of Paraná to be expended on public instruction.

—The *Journal do Recife* speaks of the new American President as "Mr. Arthur Chester." Suppose we were to say Dom Alcantara de Pedro, what would our contemporaries think?

—The subscription for the family of the late minister of agriculture, Duarque de Macedo, promoted by the *Artista*, of Rio Grande, amounted to 555\$ on the 9th inst.

—Itajiba, São Paulo, was the scene of a double murder on the morning of the 11th inst., a man named José Pequeno killing both his wife and his father. He afterwards attempted to kill himself with the same knife.

—The village of Jundiáhy, it is said, is the happy possessor of one soldier whose duty it is to guard the jail, police the town, and preserve order generally. When this poor fellow wants to sleep, they send the prisoners up to São Paulo for safe keeping.

—A priest named Juvencio Cardoso was assassinated, near the end of September, at the village of Souza, province of Paralyba. The crime was committed by a noted criminal named João Severino and two companions.

—The chief of police of São Paulo issued an order on the 12th inst., under instructions from the president, prohibiting any subordinate from interfering in the coming elections under penalty of dismissal and prosecution.

—The *Diario da Manhã*, of São Paulo, of the 19th inst., repeatedly speaks of the President of the United States as "Mr. Arthur Chester." And the *Diario* is the official paper of São Paulo and has several prominent political writers on its staff!

—The president of São Paulo has nominated a commission to determine what lands in that province are available for colonization, in accordance with the provincial law of the 16th July. This law provides for the establishment of agricultural schools and colonization nuclei in various parts of the province.

—An assassination took place at Maceió the capital of Alagoas, in the public street, on the afternoon of the 8th inst., in which a woman named Josépha Joaquina da Conceição was killed by another woman Maria Joaquina do Rosario. The murderers were captured, together with a male accomplice.

—An aged couple, over 70 years old, were assassinated on the 5th ult., at S. João Mirim, near Santo Angelo, Rio Grande do Sul, by a grandson. The murderer was captured, and confessed the crime without hesitation and without excuse. The two old people were highly esteemed by their neighbors.

—The people of Jaguarão, Rio Grande do Sul, are complaining both of the high price and the bad quality of the fresh meat furnished that city. And this in the cattle-producing province of the empire! Where it not for the present system of privileges and monopolies, and administrative interference with private affairs, such a wrong as this would speedily right itself.

—The ex-minister of agriculture Thomaz José Coelho de Almeida is a candidate for the next General Assembly. He promises to look after the interests of agriculture, railways, central factories, immigration, real state credits, protection to national industry—in short, he proposes to attend to every interest but his own. The record of the ex-minister is a guarantee of his sincerity.

—A resident of Itú, São Paulo, Antonio Alves Galvão, died on the 12th inst. from the bite of a poisonous snake known as the *cascavel*. He lived 32 hours after he was bitten. An injection of the new antidote, permanganate of potassa, was made some four hours after he was bitten, and with a Luer syringe, but to no good effect. Whether the remedy was not applied in time and in the proper manner, or whether it failed in this case as an antidote, does not appear.

—We read in the *Gazeta de Porto Alegre*, Rio Grande, of the 30th ult., that the first employment of Lacerda's antidote in that province against the venom of poisonous snakes took place at Santa Cruz on the 21st September. The military surgeon at that place says that a laborer came to him at 4 p.m. saying that he was bitten in his finger by a *saracaca* about half past two. He at once made several injections of 1% *kali hypermanganicum* in the finger near the wound and in the forearm. At the time the hand and forearm were much swelled, and the pulse was hard and quick. The man complained of severe pains, restlessness and unquenchable thirst. The morning after the treatment, the patient reported himself as feeling perfectly well, a slight swelling of the hand alone remaining.

—Cases of yellow fever are reported from Pará.

—The city council of Santos has decided to have that city surveyed and charted, and has called for proposals.

—The September receipts of the Maranhão custom house were 257,727\$663, and of the provincial treasury 29,182\$208.

—The September receipts of the Rio Grande custom house were 215,683\$753, and of the *mesa de rendas* 40,370\$487.

—The abolition club at Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, held a celebration on the 16th inst. at which liberty was given to 14 slaves.

—According to the recent *relatorio* of the president of Paraná the present population of that province is estimated at 190,000 souls. The aboriginal population is placed at 10,000.

—Sixty slaves have been recently liberated in the province of Paraná at a total cost to the emancipation fund of 39,600\$. There still remains unexpended 19,934\$ of the quota for that province.

—The city council of Curitiba, Paraná, is making provisions for supplying that city with water. The engineer charged with the preliminary work has nearly completed his surveys.

—Two slaves, says the *Correio de Cantagallo* of the 16th inst., recently presented themselves to the police authorities of that place, and confessed the murder of their overseer, João Teixeira de Carvalho.

—The September receipts of the Paraná postoffice amounted to 22,687\$, and the expenditures to 32,227\$. The province has a large extent of thinly-settled territory to serve, which accounts for the deficit.

—According to late mail advices from Paraná the churches of that province are almost unanimously in need of repairs. The next provincial legislature will probably meet the emergency with unlimited lotteries.

—The result of a dispute over a horse trade near Leopoldina, Minas Geraes, on the 10th inst., was a shooting affray in which a young Brazilian named Manuel Basilio Abraham and his brother—both strangers in that locality—were dangerously wounded by a gipsy named Feliosa. The criminal escaped.

—The *Regenerador*, of Nazareth, Bahia, says that the vicar of Lage, Padre Honorio José de Lemos, was poisoned on the 4th inst., while using some sacramental wine in celebrating a mass. The early application of remedies counteracted the poison. His slave Benedicto is charged with the crime.

—At the trial of an Italian named Rabbatino at Cataguazes, Minas Geraes, on the 12th inst., for the assassination of Capt. Francisco de Borja M. Guimarães on the 20th ult., the accused confessed the deed with such cold-blooded effrontery that a son of Guimarães drew a concealed gun and shot the criminal dead. Young Guimarães was at once arrested.

—The recent assassination of an overseer at Piracicaba, São Paulo, which we noticed some time since, was caused by the manly interference of the slave Caserio in behalf of a slave woman who was undergoing a whipping. The overseer met the remonstrance with blows, when the slave struck him with a bill-hook. We do not justify the homicide, but there is something in the slave's interference in behalf of a helpless woman which can not fail to command sympathy.

—The September receipts of the Pará custom house were 866,806\$820, making a total of 2,287,327\$485 since the 1st of July, and 5,243,764\$298 since the 1st of January. The September receipts, as compared with the five preceding years, were as follows:

1881....	866,806\$820	1878....	225,162\$999
1880....	480,130\$712	1877....	320,441\$417
1879....	532,853\$958	1876....	294,676\$106
Receipts of <i>recolhedoria</i> , September....	183,102\$207		

RAILROAD NOTES.

—Construction work began on the S. Carlos do Pinhal railway, São Paulo, on the 15th inst.

—The surveys for the telegraph line from Curitiba to Guarapuava, Paraná, have been completed. When the line is once up, it will then be determined what use to make of it.

—The government fiscal of the São Paulo railway has just completed his report for the month of May, and reports the receipts to have been 318,301\$990, the expenditures 144,413\$450, and the surplus 173,888\$540.

—The *Provincia de São Paulo* of the 20th inst. contains a communication from a druggist of that city in which he complains of the exorbitant freight charges on goods shipped from Rio. He says that on an invoice of bottles, vases, etc., for druggist's use, costing in Rio 174\$, he paid freight charges to the amount of 56\$—a little over 32 per cent. of the value. By the Dom Pedro II line he was charged for 372 kilos. while the goods weighed only 365 kilos. on their arrival at São Paulo.

—An extension of the Carangola railway, between the stations of S. Domingos and Porto Alegre, was opened to traffic on the 17th inst.

—The July receipts of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railways were 100,303\$200 and the expenditures 76,632\$050, leaving a surplus of 23,671\$150.

—A new telegraph station was inaugurated at S. Borja, Rio Grande do Sul, on the 2nd inst. The distance to this point from Alegrete is 166 kilometers, requiring 1,679 iron posts.

—The June receipts of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway amounted to 89,294\$550 and the expenditures to 87,425\$481, leaving a surplus of only 1,869\$069. The total surplus up to May 31 was 147,133\$279 which the June surplus increases to 149,002\$348.

—A petition has been presented to the minister of agriculture by Messrs Harben & Co. asking for a concession for organizing a foreign company to construct a narrow-gauge railway connecting this city with the capitals of Goyaz and Matto Grosso.

—The September receipts of the "Macahé e Campos" railway amounted to 151,161\$660. The road carried 916 first-class and 1,669 third-class passengers, 50.3 tons of *encomenda*, and 8,009.5 tons of freight. The latter included 3,278.8 tons of coffee and 3,271.5 tons of sugar.

—The *Provincia de Minas* of the 9th inst. says that the president of that province has sanctioned the legislative act granting an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. on a capital of 780,000\$ for the construction of a railway from Aventureiro to Volta Grande, a station on the Leopoldina line.

—The president of Rio de Janeiro has signed an act of the recent provincial assembly authorizing a contract for 25 years for a steam ferry service on the Rio Parahyba between S. Fidelis and the S. Antonio de Padua railway station on the opposite shore. The contract will be given to the party offering the best terms and guarantees.

—The formal inauguration of traffic on the first section of the Paraná railway took place on the 15th inst. The section lies between the port of Paraná and Morretes and is 41 kilometers long. The heaviest work on the line will be encountered on the second section, the ascent of the *terra* beginning soon after leaving Morretes. Some 2000 men are now employed on the second and third sections, and the work is well advanced.

—It is said that traffic on the Central Bahia railway will be inaugurated on the 2nd December, the Emperor's birthday, to Tapera, 85 kilometers from Cachoeira. The permanent way is already completed to Tapera. The company expect to have the permanent way completed 20 kilometers beyond Tapera by that time. The formal ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Dom Pedro II bridge over the Rio Paraguassú will take place on the same day.

—The first section of the Santa Isabel do Rio Preto railway, of this province, was formally opened to traffic on the 20th inst. This section has an extension of 24.8 kilometers, and extends from Barra do Piahy, on the Dom Pedro II line, to Piedade das Ipiabas. The whole line, when completed, will have an extension of 89 kilometers, and will terminate at Parahyba on the Rio Preto. The concession was granted December 26, 1876, and enjoys an interest guarantee from the province of Rio de Janeiro of 7 per cent. on a realized capital of 3,800,000\$. The concession is given for 90 years.

—An accident occurred on the Olinda railway, Pernambuco, on the 9th inst., which should secure one engine driver at least a prompt and thorough punishment. The occasion was the solemn entry of the new bishop of Olinda upon the possession of his diocese. A passenger train of three cars left the Rua da Aurora station, Pernambuco, at 8 a. m., followed some minutes after by a second train. At Encruzilhada the first train ran upon a siding to take water, and had just finished when the second train came up. Seeing the first train upon the siding the driver of the second conceived the brilliant idea of running by. Just then, however, the first train started and reached the main line ahead of the second. The engine of the second train collided with the rear car of the first, causing considerable damage but fortunately the loss of no lives.

—THE June exports of cotton piece goods from Great Britain to Brazil, amounted to 14,855,200 yards, against 14,365,000 yards in the same month of 1880.

—CINCINNATI is the largest whisky manufacturing city in the United States. During the year ending June 30 the district embracing that city paid a total of \$12,538,346 to the collector of internal revenue. Chicago comes next, with \$11,425,131.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, October 7.

—Several sales of national lands are reported at \$25,000 to 25,000, per league.

—Dr. Manuel M. Zavalla has been appointed by Santa Fé to negotiate a loan of \$200,000.

—Advices from Mar Chiquita say the camps out there are in splendid condition. The floods caused by the late heavy rains have fallen considerably.

—Congress has voted two months' leave of absence from the capital for President Roca, whose health is not firm, and he will take an extended journey in the interior.

—The Northern Tramway Company, of Montevideo, has gained the lawsuit it has been carrying on with Baron Mauá, the amount involved in which is no less than half a million dollars gold.

—There is a strong inclination in the national government to expropriate the Central Argentine railway, and the province of Buenos Aires has not abandoned the thought of doing the same with the Southern.

—The Brazilian government has requested the Argentine authorities to effect the arrest of the ex-vice-consul of Brazil, at Rosario, Sr. Carloso Rangely. It has also asked to have the archives he unlawfully retains in his possession secured.

—Two vessels are lying before the Rio Grande bar, waiting for water to cross, the one, drawing 11 feet 5 inches, has been waiting 60 days; the other, drawing 11 feet 8 inches, has been waiting 80 days. Advice to captains who want to go to that port.

—Congress has closed its ordinary session and has entered upon an extra session called by the President, and has a formidable array of important projects, upon which it has entered with commendable determination, which, begun earlier, would have left it less to do at this late day.

—The government has promised the commission for the exploring of the South Seas in connection with the Argentine Geographical Society, the use of one of the national gunboats, either the *Paraná* or the *Uruguay*, the corvette *Cabo de Hornos*, a cutter and a steam launch. The expedition is to leave some time in November.

—The bill presented by the minister of finance for the consolidation loan of a hundred millions is likely to pass Congress, in the opinion of most well-informed people; but it meets with general condemnation in business circles, and the opinion is prevalent that it will seriously injure our standing in Europe.

—The provincial legislature of Santa Fé has sanctioned a project of law granting a privilege of 25 years, duration to an English company for the preserving of meat in that department. The company's capital is one million pounds sterling, and the government is authorized to subscribe for 2,000 shares. The works are to begin in the course of eight or ten months.

—The destruction of locusts and their eggs has been declared obligatory on all the inhabitants in the Santa Fé colonies, and those who would excuse themselves can only do so by paying a monthly sum of five hard dollars with which a fund will be formed for the paying of those who carry on the work where there are no settlements.

—A drunken man named Joaquim Lima was arrested on Tuesday evening with several fowls in his possession. The was taken to the police station, and when he recovered the use of his senses, was unable to give any satisfactory account of the poultry. It is supposed he must have stolen them either previous to, or after getting drunk.—[Perfectly correct, dear Herald, and you can stake all your money on it. If Lima stole the chickens, it is clearly evident that he did it at exactly the time indicated—that is, either before or after getting drunk.]

—The president of the municipality is preparing a note to the minister of the interior, asking for the suppression of the greater part of the feast-days, exclusive of Sundays, which at present number 24 per annum. He requests that all but the 25th of May, the 9th of July, Christmas and Good Friday, be suppressed, the doing of which might result in the better observance of these four solemn days and of Sunday.

—In our last we stated that the Chamber of Deputies had approved the Chilean treaty. For publishing this report of a vote taken in secret session, the publication of which had been prohibited, representatives of seven newspapers were arrested, by order of the Chamber, by the police of the city, and, without arraignment at the bar of the Chamber, without affording opportunity for defence, a sentence of eight days' imprisonment for some and twenty days for others was voted, and these editors are now in the police prison on these proceedings.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

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RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 24TH, 1881.

UNDER date of the 14th instant a new code of instructions was issued by the minister of empire for the sanitary government of this port. The new regulations divide the harbor into two defined regions for the anchorage of vessels, one of which will be devoted to those under inspection, or having cases of contagious disease on board. The health officer on his first visit to the entering vessel is empowered to determine this point. All vessels under sanitary inspection are withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the custom house and captain of the port, except in matters of fiscalization. The authority given to the health inspector is ample, and relates not only to the supervision of vessels in port, but to the granting of letters of health to vessels clearing for other Brazilian ports, where such are required, which is made obligatory. The health inspector is also charged with the establishment of quarantine whenever such a step shall be deemed advisable.

The general elections under the new electoral laws will be held on the 31st instant throughout the whole empire, at which time deputies will be chosen for the next national assembly. As these are the first elections under the new law, there will be no inconsiderable interest devoted to them to determine the practical value of the elaborate machinery which has been invented for their control. In view of the fact that the new laws have limited the use of the ballot with both property and educational qualifications, and have imposed many complex and confusing restrictions and regulations upon its exercise, it can not be expected that everything will work evenly and smoothly; but even so it is hardly conceivable that matters will be any worse than under the old system. If the conservatives succeed in returning a few members, which they did not do at the last general election, we shall entertain some hopes for the practicability of the new laws. And in the meantime, it is to be sincerely hoped that the elections will pass off peaceably, and without any recurrence of those scenes which have so often blotted the political history of Brazil.

A MEETING has been called at the Guarda Velha gardens to-morrow (23rd) for the purpose of preparing a petition to the imperial government for the extinction of lotteries. While we are heartily in accord with the movement we regret that an effort was not made to give more character to the meeting in order that it might carry with it greater influence than it will under existing circumstances. An object so important as the extinction of lotteries deserves a demonstration at the opera house, and the open advocacy of the ablest speakers the cause can afford. A representation coming from

such a quarter and under such auspices will have a weight which it can never have when addressed from a Sunday meeting in a beer garden. We repeat that we are heartily in sympathy with the movement, but from the circular invitation placed in our hands, which contains no signature beyond that of "the committee," we fear that the parties interested are still too timid to make their demands felt. In such matters coffee-house or beer-garden manifestations will not carry the necessary conviction. However, as the meeting has been called we sincerely trust that it will be fully attended, and that a stirring protest will be drawn up against the evil, and the further participation of the imperial government in it. And even if nothing definite is accomplished, it can certainly arrange for a more imposing meeting in a better place at an early day. The meeting is called for 11 o'clock, a.m.

AN incident has recently happened at Curitiba, in the province of Paraná, which deserves the thoughtful attention of the government, not only as a matter of personal justice, but as matter of administrative policy. Some five years ago Mr. William Withers, an English immigrant, settled at Curitiba and entered into a small business on his own account. He undertook a new branch of industry, the curing of bacon and ham, in which he sought to build up an export business to other provinces. Having small capital and no local influence, his business was dependent wholly upon his individual management and exertion. For three years Mr. Withers slaughtered his own hogs outside the town, paying the municipal tax of 15000 per head as required by law. It happens however that Curitiba, like all other Brazilian cities and villages, has its slaughter-house monopoly, and as Mr. Withers' business grew the possessors of the privilege began to complain. They complained that their privilege entitled them to this slaughtering business, and to the prescribed fees. The city fiscal at once notified him that he must have his hogs killed at the slaughter house, which he did for a period of one year at an additional expense of 25300 per head. He was then advised by a lawyer to fight the monopoly on the ground that the exaction was illegal. This he accordingly did, but at a cost of 20\$ per head for the hogs killed outside of the town. He declined to pay the fine, and then during the trial of the case in the courts he was suddenly and arbitrarily arrested and thrown into prison. His house was broken into, his furniture was destroyed, his wife was maltreated, and his business was broken up. And this is what immigrants are getting in their efforts to settle in this country and do business for themselves! Clearly the government can not permit outrages of this character to go unpunished.

We are glad to note that the chief of police has at last adopted vigorous measures for the suppression of nocturnal house-breaking. This is just as it should be; and it is timely. From this time forward house-holders may rest in peace and feel themselves secure, for the lynx-eyed agents of the law are abroad. There is to be no more temporizing, no more mercy, no more nonsense. The chief has sworn it! Hereafter every man caught out after midnight with portable property in his possession, whatever it may be, will be summarily arrested and held to a rigid account. To be sure, the suspected party may be an honest man and the property seized may be a valise, or a coat from his tailor, or his last week's washing—it will make no difference! In the interests of burglar-catching and good order, he must submit to seizure and detention. No honest citizen should ever complain when the interests of

the public demand his sacrifice. It is probable that it never occurred to the chief of police that an honest man would ever be abroad at so unseemly an hour, or that he would hesitate to remain in-doors during suspected hours. And besides, it is probable that the new regulations will cause some little inconvenience to those unfortunate citizens who are called upon to leave their homes at three and four o'clock in the morning in order to catch the five o'clock express, but to that also there must be patient submission. Until the burglars are all caught it will be best for all good and loyal citizens to stop taking the five o'clock express; or, if they must do it, then let them carry their tooth brushes in their pockets, and not in valises. All things considered it seems best that every citizen should retire to his domicile punctually at twelve o'clock, midnight, and there remain until six o'clock in the morning. If such a course were pursued, then our vigilant police force would have the best of opportunities to detect criminals and, possibly, to catch them. It would be an advantage, perhaps, if good citizens would keep awake and hold themselves in readiness to rush to the assistance of the police whenever a burglar was scented, but as that might occasion confusion and afford an opportunity for the thoughtless to go abroad, it will be best to leave the policeman to do the catching, as well as the detecting. The burglars may not be suppressed quite so rapidly, but there will be much more certainty about it. In this new regulation we would bespeak the hearty cooperation of all good men—for it seems now to be the last recourse. Our advice is, don't go out after midnight, and don't carry portable property about the streets!

OUR contemporaries who are exercising themselves so vehemently with reference to the affairs of the Botanical Garden Rail Road Company, should possess their souls with patience. It may be incomprehensible to them why the company has not replied to the manifesto of the late minister of agriculture and why the government has taken no steps to enforce its threats—but why should our colleagues vex and worry themselves about that? It is probable that both the company and the present minister know just what they are about, and it is quite as probable that the solution will come no more speedily and easily because of all this newspaper agitation. If both parties cared to express themselves freely, their answer to all these inquiries would be that silence and oblivion is really the only wise policy to be pursued. On the part of the company there is no reply to make. The late minister made an utterly illegal and arbitrary demand upon the company—a demand which not only involved the violation of ceded rights to the company itself, but sought to make the company a party in the violation of rights ceded to others. In such an emergency what was the company to do? Should they go over once more the oft-repeated relation of their rights and point out the highly illegal and immoral character of the government's proposal? or should they maintain a discreet silence? Manifestly, the latter course was the best and safest one to be pursued. And on the part of the government, or of the late minister, a demand was made and proposals offered which were arbitrary, unjust and illegal in the highest degree. In spite of repeated decisions, and confirmations of the company's privilege, the minister asserted that the government recognised the existence of no privileged zone, and held the absolute right to grant concessions for competing lines. Instead of exercising this latter right the minister announced—and this sounds strangely like blackmail—that he would receive certain specified proposals

from the company, including a reduction in fares, the surrender of their property at the termination of the privilege, and the construction of a line to Copacabana. As the two last conditions involved the enforced surrender of a most valuable property, and the violation of the Morsing concession for a railway from Botafogo down the coast via Copacabana, it is best that they too should be buried in silence. The late minister utterly ignored the privileged rights of two parties in this demand, and was actuated—as was so frequently the case in his administration—more by personal considerations than by the public good. There remains for his successor, therefore, either the enforcement of an illegal and arbitrary demand, arising from motives in which he has no part, or the quiet shelving of the whole affair. And he seems to have wisely chosen the latter. If our contemporaries will read the judicious discussion of this question which appeared in the *Revista de Engenharia* of the 15th inst., they will find an excellent resumé of the case and a very just appreciation of its merits. And then, instead of trying to force the government into an untenable position, they will do well to imitate the two principals in letting the question drop.

THE "FAIR TRADE" MOVEMENT.

Nothing in the way of imposition has been more successful of late years than the English agitation for a "fair trade," as it is called, or in other words, for a return to protection. The effect produced by it on the minds of many people in this country as to the failure of "British free trade" has been and is almost ludicrous in its completeness. The movement consists simply of a great noise made by a number of people who do not know what they are talking about, and therefore resolutely avoid facts and figures. All they say is that the British foreign trade is going to ruin; that the poor British workman has to emigrate to avoid starvation. There is not a word of truth in this, and yet it is apparently impossible to get them to stop and argue. The *London Economist*, which has hitherto treated the agitation somewhat too disdainfully, has just given it a blow which would be crushing if the agitators were a different kind of people. It shows that during the six years ending in 1880, the cotton, woollen, pig-iron, and coal production of Great Britain, increased from five per cent, to fifteen per cent, as compared even with the production during the exceptionally prosperous six years ending in 1874; that the British consumption per head of cocoa, coffee, sugar, tea, tobacco, and spirits, has (comparing the same years) increased in a greater or less ratio; that the number of paupers, which in 1869 was 1,167,888, and in 1874 935,176, was in 1880 only 901,737; that the deposits in the savings banks, which in 1869 were only £51,078,000, were in 1880 £77,721,000. Nor is the British workman emigrating to avoid destitution. The emigration from the United Kingdom decreased thirty per cent, in the six years ending in 1880, as compared with the previous six years. It is in Germany, which has just returned to a high tariff, that the emigration is reaching enormously increased proportions. Moreover, in 1869, the gross value of property in Great Britain assessed for the income tax was £434,804,000; in 1874, £543,026,000; while in 1879 it was £578,046,000. If any one supposes, however, that the organs in this country which have been trying to make much of this ridiculous business, and predicting great results from it—the *Boston Advertiser*, for example—will quote these figures, he is probably greatly mistaken.—*The Nation*, New York, August 25.

FRENCH PROTECTION.

The French protectionists have not been very consistent in their arguments in the debates on the new general tariff, and the weakness of their position was clearly shown by the liberals, but without changing the results. When the tariff came before the Senate it was urged that a market for French agricultural produce could only be maintained by placing some restrictions on the importation of foreign produce; that the "discovery of agricultural America," as M. Paris expressed it, had altered the position of the French farmer, and that unless something was done to check this foreign competition the French farmer would soon be driven to the wall, as wheat and other cereals could be imported and sold for a lower price than would remunerate the home grower; that the condition of the farmer was bad and was becoming worse. On the other hand, the friends of a liberal commerce alleged that the situation of the French farmer was due to causes beyond the control of legislation. No coun-

try could bear a succession of bad harvests; the phylloxera had caused the misfortunes of the wine producers; and some misery was entailed by the chemical preparation of madder, a discovery which put an end to the culture of the madder plant. It was, moreover, shown that the grain acreage had increased, the average yield per acre was larger, and that a heavier and better grain was produced; that so far from being crowded out by foreign competition, the crop of 1880 was above the average, and while it was asserted that American wheat could be sold in France for fourteen francs per hectolitre, the price of wheat at the seaboard remained at twenty-three francs the hectolitre.

Notwithstanding these statements, the protectionist plea was favored by the farmers, and an alliance was formed between the manufacturers and the farmers to pass a protective tariff, with the expectation, of course, that the protection would be equal for both. But the result has shown that the manufacturers have obtained the lion's share. The greater part of agricultural products is still admitted free or on payment of very moderate duties. On the other hand, the duties on all manufactured articles, with the exception of certain silks, have been increased by one-fourth when compared with duties under the commercial treaties, and unless the commercial treaties are renewed the increase will be still greater. Nor was this result due in any way to the soundness of the manufacturers' arguments. Before the Senate the iron manufacturers claimed that they were placed at such a disadvantage that the proposed duty of six francs per ton would not enable them to compete successfully with foreign manufacturers. They even went so far as to give figures, which were supposed to express accurately the extent of this disadvantage. It cost in France, they said, to produce one ton of iron, sixty-one francs more than in England, sixty-francs more than in Belgium, and seventy-two francs more than in Germany. Yet facts were against them, for in the period between 1860 and 1880, while the commercial treaty was in operation, importations of iron remained almost stationary, though the home production enormously increased.—The Nation, August 25.

PAPER CAR WHEELS.

The paper is straw-board of rather fine texture. It is received in the ordinary broad sheet, differing in no particular from those used for straw-board boxes or other similar work. These sheets as they come from the paper mill are square, and must first of all be cut to a circular pattern. This is rapidly done on a large table with a knife that is guided by a radial arm that swings freely over the surface of the table from a pivot at the centre. A small disk is also cut from the centre of the sheet to allow for the iron hub. Being thus reduced to the required shape and dimensions, the paper must now be converted from a mass of loose sheets into a compact, dense body, capable of withstanding the tremendous crushing force to which it will be subjected in the wheels. This is accomplished in the following manner: Ten sheets are pasted together, one upon the other, making a disk of about one-eight or an inch thick. Enough of these disks having been prepared to fill a powerful hydraulic press, they are subjected to a pressure of 1,880 pounds to the square inch. When removed the disks are hung on poles in a steam-heated loft and left 6 days to dry. Thicker disks are then made, each formed by pasting together two or three of those already finished. These are pressed and dried as before, and the process is repeated until a block is built four inches thick and of about the specific gravity of lignum-vite. After each pasting and pressing six days are allowed for drying, and when the block is complete it is left in a drying-room until thoroughly seasoned. The next operation is that of turning the paper blocks to fit the steel tires and iron hubs. This is done with as much accuracy and in exactly the same manner as if the material worked on was iron or wood. The circumference is turned to a perfect circle of the precise diameter required, a bed or recess is worked out for the web of the tire to rest in, and the edges sharply defined. The block is then painted and is ready for its place in the wheel.—Ex.

ARTIFICIAL INDIGO.

The merits of artificial indigo as a dyeing material are being discussed in some English journals. A London merchant interested in the trade takes exception to some statements recently made in public by Professor Roscoe. He writes: "My principal objection is that the invention is called the discovery of 'artificial indigo,' whereas the discovery does not go beyond an attempt to produce indigo blue. Indigo, commonly so called, contains, besides indigo blue, indigo red and indigo brown. True indigo blue is considered chemically as the pure article, but the natural dye contains, in addition, the other two substances, the former of which, at least, is certainly a great influence in the dyeing processes. So long, therefore, as the discovery goes no further than the artificial production of indigo blue, I think the most that can be said is

that another among the many attempted substitutes for indigo has been brought out. This point being fully admitted—viz., that the discovery is that of indigo blue alone—I am prepared to allow that the 'propionic' acid, if sold at a moderate price, may be used for many purposes for which indigo is not suitable. To show that the artificial product is not the same as natural indigo I may state on the very best practical authority that the shades of blue produced by indigo cannot be attained by the use of the 'propionic' acid, and further that the great desideratum of natural indigo—perfect fastness—is in a great measure wanting in this artificial production. This alone would condemn its use for many purposes, as 'indigo dyed' is almost a synonym for fastness of color. We hear on every side complaints as to the fading of articles of dress, carpets, etc. The reason is obvious. Coal tar dyes are now used to a surprising extent, and even when they are not supposed to exist, with the result as given above. Beyond this, even the use of some of these coal tar dyes is positively poisonous. This invention of artificial indigo blue is derived from coal tar. That the discovery of artificial indigo will never be accomplished it would be folly to assert, but at present we are some long distance removed from it. I have already shown that the article now produced forms only one component of the natural dye, and, according to Professor Roscoe, is very costly. Taking his figures of 6s per pound for 25 per cent of the acid, and that the acid contains only 68.58 of indigo blue, in theory, in every 100 parts of acid, we arrive at a cost of 35s per pound within the merest fraction for pure indigo blue, in theory. Now, we may take it that in practice the cost would be much greater. Again, the planters in India could, if necessary, sell their produce at a very considerable reduction on present quotations, so that, unless the artificial stuff could be produced at a cost not exceeding 5s or 6s per pound pure, it would be unable to displace the natural dye, provided always, even at this low figure, the results turn out in practice in every way as good!"—Commercial Bulletin, New York.

LOCAL NOTES.

—The government has granted a ten-years' privilege to Manoel Gonçalves Pacheco for a wagon constructed for carrying fresh meat.

—The Emperor visited the monitor Solimões on the 18th inst., and assisted at some gun practice and turret-revolving experiments. The rudder was kept in chains.

—From the number of suicides and attempts at suicide, with which the newspapers are filled, it would seem that a genuine epidemic is raging throughout the whole country.

—Two small boats engaged in smuggling were caught in the act of landing contraband goods on the Ilha das Enxadas on the early morning of the 18th inst. The capture amounted to 151 flannel shirts and six dozen belts.

—The death of Counselor Benevenuto Augusto de Magalhães Taques, for many years inspector of customs at this port, took place in this city on the 17th inst. Previous to his occupancy of the inspector's office in this port, the deceased had occupied many public offices, as those of deputy, provincial president, counselor of state, and minister of foreign affairs.

—One of the peculiar features of the grand lottery just concluded is the number of the large prizes which fell to rich men and titled men. One of the richest men in Brazil drew 50,000\$, two others 250,000\$ each, etc. To add 50,000\$ to the immense fortune of one man, over thirty-three hundred men contributed their 15\$ each—taking the average price of tickets at that figure. And all these men are just so much the poorer in order that an unnecessary fiftycontos may swell the fortune of one man!

—An assassination took place at No. 96, Largo de S. Joaquin on the morning of the 7th inst., resulting in the death of a young man named Alexandre Augusto Pereira de Carvalho and the wounding of his mother. The murder was committed by a desperate character named Manoel Romão, and apparently without motive. The weapon used was a pair of scissors. After committing the crime Romão secured a knife and revolver and then shut himself in a basement room where he offered a desperate resistance before he could be captured.

—The amateur minstrel troupe, known to local fame as the "White Lilies" gave their first performance at the Theatre Gymnasio last Tuesday evening to an appreciative audience, more select than numerous. The "end men" held the gaps bravely, and the "middle man" was sufficiently serious and severe. The songs were fairly rendered, and all of the first part of the performance was a success—delightful to the audience and creditable to the young men who have given so much of their time to preparation and rehearsals. Perhaps it would have been more encouraging to the amateurs if they could have seen the faces of more of their friends in the chairs.

—By an imperial decree of the 18th inst., 'Dr. Domingos Antonio Alves Ribeiro was appointed chief of police for the province of São Paulo.

—A telegram from Shanghai announces the signing on the 3rd inst. of the treaty of commerce, navigation and friendship between the empires of Brazil and China.

—The French minister to this capital, M. Léon Alexis Noel, left for Europe on the French packet *Orléans* on the 16th inst. The legation in this city is left in charge of the secretary, M. Rouvier.

—The city council has approved a resolution requiring greater vigilance from the police in preventing the deposit of garbage at night on the *praias*, to the detriment of public health and the inconvenience of bathers. That's all right as far as the *praias* are concerned, but what do the city fathers propose to do about the streets?

—The United States *chargé d'affaires* at this capital, John C. White, Esq., has advised Consul General Adamson that he is not to issue passports, certificates of citizenship, or documents of any kind on which citizenship may be based. Such papers will be issued at the United States legation only.

—As a slight testimonial of their appreciation, the many friends of E. Ross Duffield, Esq., ex-manager of the English Bank, united in presenting him with an elegant silver service on the 14th inst. Mr. Duffield took his departure for Buenos Aires on the 18th inst., on the Royal Mail packet *Elke*, bearing with him the esteem and good wishes of a host of friends.

—Our readers will be pleased to note that the *Journal do Commercio* of the 16th inst. made the necessary correction in its report of coffee receipts during the quarter ending September 30, to which we called attention in our issue of the 15th. The promptness with which the correction was made is highly commendable in our esteemed contemporary—so much so, perhaps, that the public will overlook the failure to give due credit.

—The illustrious Dr. Seraphim Moniz, *juiz de direito* of the 1st criminal district, has discharged one João Luiz de Andrade from custody on the grounds of insanity. João was arrested for beating and injuring his wife with a club on the 17th of July, without motive. With so good an excuse as is here furnished by the learned doctor, it is probable that wife-beating will come into fashion again.

—Why will so many of our Brazilian contemporaries speak of the new President of the United States as Mr. Arthur Chester? From the frequency with which American affairs are quoted here one would believe that the Brazilian press is as familiar with the United States as with one of their own provinces, and yet mistakes are daily made which would shame a Fiji Islander. Is it possible that Brazilian editors, and among them those of several leading journals, do not know that the name of the President of the United States is CHESTER A. ARTHUR?

—The committee on health of the city council has presented a report to that body to the effect that the minister of agriculture shall be asked to complete the S. Diogo market station so that it can be used; that the government cede this market to the city either by rental or sale; that a band pavilion be erected in the park of the Praça da Acclamação; that the government cede the present police station in Botafogo to the city for use as a market; and that the board of health be asked to aid the council in preparing and posting sanitary instructions in the quarters of the poorer classes.

—The Queen of Great Britain, the King of Spain, and other European sovereigns, ordered their respective courts to wear mourning for eight days in honor of the late President of the United States, and it was done with so genuine a spirit of sympathy and grief as to make it something infinitely better than a mere court formality. This widespread sympathy for a republican ruler in the monarchical courts of the old world, however, seems to have found no echo in the only court on the American continent. Why is it? Is there really less sympathy for republican institutions here than in Europe?

—The minister of finance issued instructions on the 5th inst. that E. Arthur & Co. should be permitted to clear all goods sent to the American Exhibition without the payment of duties, provided a satisfactory guarantee was given that the duties should be paid in case of sale. But what has E. Arthur & Co. got to do about it? There is no exhibition, nor will there be! And in case such an event were probable, Mr. Arthur has nothing whatever to do about it. With Hopper out, and Arthur out, and the Permanent Exhibition out, there is a question as to what shall be done with the exhibits sent by some simple-minded folk—and this is probably the problem which E. Arthur & Co. propose to solve.

—An imperial decree, No. 18,278, was issued on the 15th inst. granting an interest guarantee of 6 per cent on 5,600,000\$ for the establishment of eight central usines in the province of Bahia. As we have before announced, the contract is made with Denis Blair & Co., of Bahia.

COMMERCIAL

October 27th, 1881.

Table with 3 columns: Par value of the Brazilian mil reis (1000), gold 27 d. do do coin at \$4 84 per £1. 54 45 cents. do \$1.00 (U. S. coin) in Brazilian gold. 13873 do of £1. sig. in Brazilian gold. 88880

Table with 2 columns: Bank rate of exchange on London to-day. 22 1/2 d. Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper) 824 78. gold. do do coin at \$4.80 per £1. 44.50 cts. Value of \$1.00 (\$4.80 per £1. sig.) in Brazilian currency (paper). 2247 Value of £1 sterling " " 10 787

EXCHANGE.

October 14.—The rate on London was reduced to 22 1/2 d, the following rates being adopted by the banks:

Table with 2 columns: London 22 1/2 90 dis Paris 426 " Hamburg 528 " New York 28280 3 dis Portugal 241-242 7/8 "

The business done was small, private paper being negotiated at 22 3/4-22 7/16 on London, 421-423 on France and 226 on Hamburg. Sovereigns sold at 108350, 10 900, 10 950 and 10 950 cash.

Oct. 15.—The rates of the banks were unchanged but no transactions were reported. In private paper some small amounts were passed at 22 3/4 and 22 7/16 on London, Sovereigns sold at 108380, 108300 and 10 950 cash.

Oct. 17.—The rates of the banks remained unchanged. Small transactions in private paper on London at 22 3/4, 22 7/16 and 22 3/4. Sovereigns sold at 108350 cash.

Oct. 18.—The banks continued drawing at 22 1/2 on London and at the corresponding rates on other places. Private paper was negotiated at 22 1/16, 22 3/4 and 22 7/16 on London and at 420-422 on France. Sovereigns sold at 118000 cash.

Oct. 19.—The market opened in the same conditions as yesterday with few takers of bank paper at 22 1/2. After 1 p. m. the English Bank and the Banco Commercial adopted the following reduced rates:

Table with 2 columns: 22 London 431 Paris 535 Hamburg 28310 New York 243-244 7/8 Portugal

Only a limited business was done in private paper at 22 1/4-22 3/4 on London and 420-422 on France. Sovereigns sold at 118000 cash.

Oct. 20.—The English Bank maintained the rates of yesterday which the Banco do Comercio also adopted, whereas the Banco Commercial raised its rate on London to 22 1/2. The official rates were:

Table with 2 columns: 22 and 22 1/2 on London 428, 430, 431 on Paris 534 and 535 on Hamburg 28310 on New York 242, 243, 244 on Portugal.

Private paper was negotiated at 22 5/16 a 22 3/4 on London and at 422 a 424 on France and Belgium, the market closing firm. Sovereigns sold at 118000 cash.

Oct. 21.—The rate of 22 1/2 was to-day adopted by all the banks, the official rates being:

Table with 2 columns: London 22 1/2 Paris 427-428 Hamburg 531 New York 28300 Portugal 242-243 7/8

The market was firm with few takers, small transactions being effected in bank paper on London at 22 1/2 on head office, and on Paris at 427. Private paper was negotiated at 22 1/2-22 7/16 on London and at 422-425 on France. Sovereigns sold at 108300 cash.

Oct. 22.—To-day the banks are drawing at 22 1/2, though they do not adopt this rate officially.

—The province of Rio Grande do Sul has effected a loan with the Visconde de Figueiredo for the sum of 2,444,000\$ at 6 per cent. per annum, and an annual redemption of 2 per cent. The loan is to be applied to the consolidation of the floating debt.

SALES OF STOCKS AND SHARES.

Table with 2 columns: October 13. 34 Six per cent apolices. 1,080 000 3 do 1,078 000 55 Sorocabana R. R. 93 000 29 do 95 000 50 do 100 000 100 Sorocabana R. R. (outs. sale) 100 000 22 do 102 000 355 Amazon Steam Navigation 145 000 240 Navegação Nac. for last day of transfer (0.8) 290 000 110 Popular Fluminense Insurance 103 000 20 Docas D. Pedro II. 94 7/8 102 Macabé e Campos debentures 94 7/8 40 Banco do Brazil hypoth. notes (50) 278 000 October 14. 262 Six per cent apolices. 1,080 000 1 Provincial apolices of 500\$ 100 par 4,400\$ do 100 7/8 29 Banco do Brazil 298 000

ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNED TO. Lists arrivals from Oct 13 to Oct 21, including steamers like Genova II, Europa II, and others.

DEPARTURES OF FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE TO, CARGO. Lists departures from Oct 14 to Oct 21, including steamers like Europa II, Genova II, and others.

* Calling at intermediate ports.

FOREIGN SAILING VESSELS IN THE PORT OF RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 21, 1881.

Large table with columns: NAME, TONNAGE, ENTERED, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNEE. Lists various international vessels including American, British, French, German, and Spanish ships.

GOVERNMENT BONDS

Table with columns: EMISSION, CIRCULATION, DENOMINATION, INTEREST, NOMINAL VALUE, QUOTATION. Lists various government bonds and their market values.

BANKS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES

Large table with columns: CAPITAL, SHARES, ENDED, VALUE, PAID UP, NAMES, RESERVE FUNDS, LAST DIVIDEND. Lists various banks and public companies with their financial details.

THE RIO NEWS

1881

With the opening of the present year THE RIO NEWS was enlarged to an eight-page sheet, and improved in every department...

Commercial Department

where every effort has been employed to gather reliable information and statistics and to so digest and arrange them as to best meet the needs of commercial men. In its

Financial Department

The News will continue to report fully the movements and state of the stock and exchange markets, thus making it a faithful index of the city's transactions. The sale of bonds and stocks will be given for each day. It will also carefully note every legislative, administrative, or private which may in any sense affect the profitability or security of investments. In its

News Department

it will aim to give a full resume of all the occurrences in the empire, and in so doing will be governed by no private interest or fear. In its news gathering it will seek to represent things just as it finds them; in its comments it will aim to present its own opinions for which it will be willing to be held responsible at all times.

The following are a few selections from the comments with which we have been honored by our contemporaries: With the Gazeta da Tarde, Rio de Janeiro.

This interesting organ of the Rio press has constituted itself a resolute champion of the cause of emancipation, rendering the most decided and efficient support to the glorious initiative of our illustrious friend, Deputy Joaquim Nabuco. The mar of the interests fed by the immoral traffic in human flesh does not frighten the independent sheet which sees every day an increase in the number of its readers and earnest panegyrics.

The whole English colony of Rio de Janeiro prize THE RIO NEWS, and there are already many Brazilians who seek it for its very exact appreciation and judicious commentaries on all our questions relating to the prosperity of Brazil. We wish THE RIO NEWS success and congratulate ourselves in seeing that it fights, with great valor and excellent judgment, to save Brazil from the disgrace of possessing slaves in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The existence of this important organ of the press is a splendid proof that it is not alone by the support of the slaveholders that a journal can live. From the Monitor Commercial, Campos, Rio de Janeiro. Since its inauguration THE RIO NEWS has become important and useful not only for the impartiality and high standard with which it treats all the topics of the day, but also for the abundance of local and provincial notices of Brazil, and of commercial information of the Rio de Janeiro market, the knowledge of which has come to be necessary to every one in our own country and the United States who would follow the discussion of public affairs and the news in Brazil.

From THE Rio News. - Many one wanting Brazilian news in the English language we can recommend THE RIO NEWS, published on the 5th, 15th and 24th of every month, as a reliable paper.

From the Auxiliador da Industria Nacional, Rio de Janeiro. Brazil, which happily knows what is passing in the European and American world, can not however make known what is occurring within her interior and the progress under way, impelled rather by the active forces of a splendid nature than by the independent effort and initiative of her sons. From this point of view, we can not fail to render homage to the distinguished editor of THE RIO NEWS, who so faithfully transmits to the great American Union and to the European world the state of our social life, the political and economic questions which we are now discussing, the administrative and financial life of our provinces, and many other items of news which are worthy of all appreciation because of the discrimination and judgment which has presided over them.

From the Alibi, Rio Grande. We have already had the pleasure of noticing that important organ of the press, under the title which we have taken for this epigraph ["THE RIO NEWS"], is published in the imperial capital, especially devoted to the interests of a numerous and respectable colony represented by the sons of powerful Allion.

The sincere desire manifested in the prosperous growth of the country by all those who so willingly reside in it, is a clear proof that on this American soil, where shines the Southern Cross, they have found a second motherland. The good will bestowed upon our province, in honorable opinions, by our enlightened contemporary, THE RIO NEWS, offering to us its most valuable aid in calling attention to what will meet our most vital needs, is without doubt a move sufficient to have our unchanging gratitude.

In order that we may make due return for the high consideration of our illustrious colleague, we place our limited service at his free disposal. - May 24, 1880. The Rio News of July 15, the important English journal published in the imperial capital, is occupied with various matters, all of political and social importance, thus rendering a valuable service not only to the colony in whose interest it is specially zealous, but also to our country, appreciating without passion and with the greatest impartiality those occurrences which, through its medium, are to be echoed in the old world. - July 26, 1880.

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 Capital paid up..... " 500,000
 Reserve fund..... " 140,000
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TABLE OF DEPARTURES, 1881

DATE	STEAMER	DESTINATION
Oct. 24	Neva.....	Southampton, Antwerp and Hamburg via Bahia, Pernambuco, and Lisbon.
Nov. 3	Minho.....	Southampton and Havre via Bahia, Maceio, Pernambuco and Lisbon.
" 9	Elbe.....	Southampton and Antwerp via Bahia, Pernambuco, etc.

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 —34 Rua São Pedro.
POST-OFFICE ADDRESS:—Caixa no Correio, No. 721.