

# THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 24TH, 1881

NUMBER 36

## OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—22, Rua do Marquez d'Alarantes  
JOHN C. WHITE,  
Chargé d'Affaires.

BRITISH LEGATION.—No. 135, A. Lavengerais.  
EDWIN CORBETT,  
Minister.

AMERICAN CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 30, Rua do  
Visconde de Inhuma.  
THOMAS ADAMSON,  
Consul General.

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 30, Rua de  
S. José.  
GEORGE THORNE RICKETTS,  
Consul General.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

ENGLISH CHURCH.—Rua do Evaristo da Veiga. Services  
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FREDERICK YOUNG, M. A.,  
Chaplain.

Residence.—Ladeira do São, Lavengerais.  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—No. 15, Travessa da Barreira.  
Services in Portuguese at 11 o'clock, a. m., and 7 o'clock,  
p. m., every Sunday; and at 7 o'clock p. m., every  
Thursday.

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at 11 a. m., Sundays. Weekly prayers at 7:30 p. m.,  
Wednesdays.

J. J. RANSOM, Pastor,  
J. L. KENNEDY, Ass't Pastor.

Pastor's Rooms in the City,  
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SAILORS MISSION.—163, Rua da Saude; 3rd floor. Ser-  
vices at 11 a. m. every Sunday.

FRANCIS CURRAN,  
Missionary.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—Depot at  
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JOÃO M. G. DOS SANTOS,  
Agent.

IGREJA EVANGELICA FLUMINENSE.—No. 44, Tra-  
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## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

One of the great obstacles in the way of a permanent industrial development in this country—and we propose to speak plainly—is the lack of individual independence and enterprise. This serious defect is one which has grown out of a long series of administrative errors, and is to-day gaining so strong a hold upon the country that it promises to defeat not only the development desired, but to strangle the development already secured. That this statement is perfectly just let us take up any industry that our Brazilian friends may choose to name.

First and foremost among all the industries of the country is that of coffee production. This great industry is so well adapted to the soil and climate of Brazil that it has attained a magnitude far beyond that of any other country in the world. Year after year it has steadily grown in area, and the reputation of its product has gone out through the world in almost as great a proportion. Apparently it lacks no single element which can contribute to the successful development of a great industry—but is this really the case? Some months since we visited the municipality of S. Fidelis, in the valley of the Parahyba, where the late minister of agriculture found coffee production dying out through the ravages of some mysterious disease. We had derived an impression from the accounts given of this coffee-plant disease that it was a new one, and that efforts were to be made to prevent its spreading into other municipalities. The real facts of the case were, however, that this disease had existed in S. Fidelis for some twelve or fourteen years, and that no efforts whatever had been made to suppress it. From small beginnings in the municipality the disease had been gradually spreading in all directions—southerly into the fertile municipality of Santa Maria Magdalena, northerly into that of S. Antonio de Padua, westerly into the famous coffee-producing district of Cantagallo. In response to our inquiries we were told that it was the business of the government to study and check the disease, because the public treasury derived a large revenue from it. We could not find two persons who agreed as to the peculiarities of the disease, nor could we hear of one single person who had made an effort to destroy it. The simple remedies used by fruit-growers to protect their trees, such as lime, salt, tobacco, or carbolic acid washes, had never been thought of—nor was any one disposed to employ them. Everyone was waiting for the government to do something—either to study and destroy the disease, or to substitute a sugar usine, with guarantee of interest, for the dying coffee industry. And in the meantime the once highly productive coffee orchards of S. Fidelis have become a thing of the past, and the planters are patiently waiting for the government to set them up in some other kind of business.

This illustration—and it is but one among the many—proves the fatal lack of individual enterprise even in the most flourishing industry of the country. Who knows but what it would have been possible to have stamped out this disease twelve years ago by the simple application of an inexpensive

wash? And yet, no one seems even to have thought of such a thing. A few simple experiments might have saved this industry to the municipality, and added incalculably to its wealth. As it is, the fatal policy of waiting upon government aid has destroyed the industry, and impoverished the planters; and still further, it has even prevented the substitution of another industry.

In another sense, this same mistaken policy is bringing a crisis upon the coffee industry which promises to end in serious loss and disaster. What planter knows that there is nearly three-quarters of a million bags of coffee accumulated at Havre, that there is an aggregate of 1,873,000 bags in the principal ports of Europe, and that the consuming markets of the world are actually glutted? And yet the area of production is being steadily increased, the cost of production tends upward, and there is no improvement in quality. Notwithstanding an increased export the planters find themselves with an enormous stock on hand—and so they come to the government for assistance in introducing their product to new consuming markets. In the face of over-production and glutted markets they are personally helpless, and like children seek for paternal aid and counsel.

We do not speak of these things with any spirit of unfriendliness. The evil—and it is a serious one—is the legitimate outgrowth of that policy which centres so much power in the ministerial departments of the government. The powers which should be delegated to the provinces, and the little matters of local administration which should be left to the municipalities and parishes, are all centered here in Rio de Janeiro. No one can come or go without seeing and feeling the influence and power of the imperial government. And so the people have been compelled to come to the government for everything, and have very naturally been led to expect corresponding assistance and protection in all their needs. Instead of studying the plant diseases and insect plagues which afflict his industry, the planter turns to the minister for help, and actually sees himself impoverished and ruined in the waiting. When over-production occurs, instead of turning his attention to other products, or improving the quality and decreasing the cost of his product, he helplessly turns to the government for succor. It is needless to argue that all this is radically and dangerously wrong.

In another industry—and one which contains within it the promise of great wealth to Brazil—this very same error is producing the same if not worse results. The area of lands suitable for sugar production is very large, and their location with respect to market and transportation facilities is everything that can be desired. Still further, the industry responds quickly and bountifully to every encouragement. In some localities the cane-fields are almost inexhaustible—as on the Amazon and at Campos where single plantings have continued productive from twenty-five to thirty years. And yet, this bane of government aid is creeping in upon the industry and is actually proving an obstacle to its freest and fullest development.

In a recent visit to the sugar district of Campos we found a degree of development which will compare favorably with any sugar-producing locality in the world. The lands are of rare fertility and are well cultivated. The sugar mills are large and well arranged, and the facilities for transportation are unsurpassed. Notwithstanding all this, however, the signs of decay are beginning to appear, and the aid of the government is invoked. And why? Simply because the original spirit of private enterprise is dying out, and the community has weakened under the injudicious grants of aid from the public treasury. There is not one single insurmountable obstacle to the successful and highly profitable development of this industry in the eastern municipalities of this province, of which Campos is the centre. And yet the unwise grants of interest guarantees to central usines in various localities, and the promise of similar favors to others, has placed the private establishments under such unjust disadvantages that their proprietors are either discouraged, or are hopelessly fighting against an unequal competition. Sugar-planting at Campos is not a new industry, and therefore a grant of public aid at this time is nothing else than a fatal discrimination against the many who have nothing but private capital and good management to depend upon. One guaranteed central usine in any locality is sufficient to ruin every private establishment in its neighborhood, and to send their proprietors up to the department of agriculture begging for aid. And this is just what is transpiring not only about Campos, but throughout the whole empire. It may be accepted as an economic axiom that the discriminating bestowal of public aid upon any industry invariably weakens and destroys all private enterprise in connection with it.

If now our Brazilian friends will examine any and every other industry established here, they will find, almost without exception, this very same state of things—this same weakening of private enterprise, this same growing dependence upon public aid, this same parasitic theory of government protection and encouragement. Privileges are being granted every where, but yet never beyond a small percentage of the demand. When the planters of Pernambuco and Paraná decide to try wheat-raising, they wait for the government to send them the seed; when the stock-raising industry of Pará fails, the people ask for a subsidy for supplying the markets with beef; when the sugarcane fields of Pernambuco die from disease, the planters appeal for aid and the government sends them commissions and new cane cuttings; when the Quissamá usine finds that its capital and interest guarantee are insufficient to produce the desired profit they ask the government for an increase, and get it; when the artificial wine factory of the Rua do Passieo finds that it has not a sufficient control of the market for its spurious productions, it asks for more protection, and gets it;—and so on through a long and varied list.

It is needless to repeat what is so often said in regard to the influence and necessity of diversified industries. The fact is un-

iversally recognized that every nation should not only possess such diversity of industries, but also that they should have a healthy and substantial development. And to this may be added that there can be no such thing as healthy, substantial development without self-creating, self-regulating, self-supporting private enterprise. It is rare indeed that an industry can be built up with outside artificial aid so that it can stand alone; and it is even more rare that sound business habits can be built up under a system of guaranteed profits. It is inevitably fatal to any industry to be propped, and bolstered, and fed in this way; it is destructive to sound enterprise and demoralizing to private character.

#### MINING TAXATION.

In view of the early meeting of the General Assembly, and of the interests involved on the part of many mining enterprises throughout the country, we beg leave to call the attention of the government to a few considerations on the subject of mining. Although there is an abundance of mineral wealth throughout Brazil, and a promise that it will some day add greatly to the material development of the country, it is rarely found under conditions which render it highly remunerative. A proof of this is seen in the extremely small percentage of paying mines among those opened. The simple fact that gold is found over a very large area is not a proof that a paying mine can be located at hap-hazard, nor that every superficial promise will result successfully. If this had been the case there would now be fewer abandoned mines in Minas Geraes, and a successful company or so in almost every municipality. In truth, the rare occurrence of mineral deposits of a paying character, the inaccessibility of the mines, the costs of labor, transportation and administration, coupled with the innumerable taxes of every description levied upon the industry, are all fatal to any successful prosecution of mining except under very rare and exceptional conditions.

During the coming session of the General Assembly it is very likely that this question will receive some attention, especially in connection with the new mining law soon to be promulgated. It is desirable, therefore, that careful consideration should be given to the needs of this industry. Under present conditions, the laws and regulations affecting mining operations are not at all favorable, and we regret to say the new law offers little or no relief. Besides the general import taxes on machinery and materials, the companies are subject to provincial import duties, toll-road taxes, labor imposts, machinery imposts (25000 per head of stamps), and all the various general and provincial taxes on their business operations. Then on the product of their mines they are subject to general and provincial export taxes, and to whatever imposts the province may see fit to impose. These taxes are subject to constant changes, and are always a source of anxiety and risk to the companies. At first the province of Minas Geraes levied an impost of 4 per cent., on the gross product of her gold mines, the object of course being the prosperous Morro Velho mine. Then in concession to the vigorous protests made, this tax was changed to 4 per cent. on the net proceeds, the companies being subject to official, arbitrary and excessive valuations. Notwithstanding various decisions on the part of the general government this impost has been continued and enforced. During the last session of the provincial assembly an attempt was made to levy an impost of 2 per cent., on the gross product, but this was finally reduced to 1 per cent., on an official valuation of 900 reis per gramme, or 3\$248 per oitava. What changes will be made at

the next session no one can tell, but it is certain that the feeling of hostility to the English companies will lead to nothing more liberal.

Under such conditions it would seem urgently necessary that the national assembly should take some decisive step toward securing just and liberal protection for these companies. The laws governing mining operations should be framed on the most liberal basis possible, in order that the industry may have a greater degree of administrative liberty and be less subject to official supervision. Then the industry should be secured against this present system of duplicated and arbitrary taxation. There should be an end to this imposition of double import and export taxes, and to the unjust imposition of excessive provincial imposts. No reputable company—and we can speak unreservedly for the foreign companies—will make one single objection to paying their share of public taxation; even more, they will pay liberally. As a rule, mining operations are carried on in places where there is little security for life and property, and they have need therefore of more protection than the better organized communities. For all this they are willing to pay well, but they want the value of their money in every respect.

In dealing with this industry on a more liberal basis than is now done, the government should remember that such a policy must and will prove highly beneficial to itself. Every obstacle simply restricts the development of the industry, shuts off the creation of wealth, and the consequent revenue which it will afford. The great majority of Brazilian mines can be worked only under cheap and economical administration; under the present laws in Minas Geraes they can not work at all. It is not only just therefore that all these excessive burdens should be removed, but it is a matter of high policy. In mining, as in every other industry or occupation, excessive taxation simply defeats itself. It imposes hardships which can not be endured, and derives no adequate compensation for the effort.

From *The Anti-Slavery Reporter*, London, November 16.

#### SLAVE-TRADE PAPERS.

The Slave-trade Papers, so long promised to be laid before parliament, and which even now do not reach to the end of last year, have at length been published.

From these papers we shall make extracts, from time to time, as we find space, for there is a mass of matter in this bulky volume that must be of great value to all who feel any interest in the anti-slavery cause.

#### BRAZIL.

The public interest lately manifested on the occasion of the visit to Europe of Senhor Nabuco, led us at once to turn to the dispatches, with their enclosures, received from the British minister, Mr. Ford, and also from Mr. Ricketts, Her Majesty's consul at Rio de Janeiro.

In these enclosures are found the speech of the United States minister (Mr. Hilliard), at a banquet given to him by the Anti-Slavery Society of Brazil. The noble sentiments contained in this speech, and in his letter to Senhor Nabuco, in acknowledgment of the manifesto of the *Brazilian Anti-Slavery Society*, must find an echo in the breast of every true Englishman, and it is with a feeling of humiliation that we note the tone of covert censure on Mr. Hilliard that is conveyed in the letter of the British minister to Earl Granville in reference thereto. Now, we hold that the United States minister was strictly within the sphere of his duty in offering on that appropriate occasion his friendly advice, founded on the political and social experience of his country, to the Brazilian government and people, even at the risk of offending a junta of slave-owners.

But whatever may be said against the exercise of these free opinions by an American minister, in no degree can apply to the representative of England. As we have often asserted, without contradiction, nine-tenths of the slave population of Cuba are, if not themselves the offspring of slaves, feloniously imported in violation of the treaties with England. This, it is perfectly well known, is largely—if not equally—the case in Brazil; and as a consequence, there devolves on any British minister not merely the right but the duty of pressing for the acceleration of a process of emancipation, which, as Mr. Ford truly points out, will require half a century for its full completion.

We cannot but contrast the *laissez faire* tone of Mr. Ford with so much that we read in this volume of a real and a vital antagonism to slavery in the diplomatic and consular correspondence of Her Majesty's representatives in the Eastern World.

Had some portion of the same spirit been ever present with Her Majesty's ministers in Brazil, we should not have had so long to witness the scandal of Englishmen holding slaves in Brazil, or of an English mail company becoming the carriers for an internal slave-trade between the northern and southern provinces of that empire.

When we remember that more than three million pounds sterling\* were paid in 1815, 1820, and 1821 to Portugal as a compensation for such losses as were assumed to arise from renouncing the slave-trade to Brazil, and that the greater part of its slave population owes its present existence to the long and continuous violation of this compact, we must emphatically repeat that slavery in Brazil is not merely a "domestic" question, but is one which England, in virtue of the most solemn treaties, is bound to press on the government of Brazil for its early abolition.

\* Report on Slave-trade Treaties, 1853.

#### THE NEW AMERICAN MINISTER.

On the evening of the 17th instant the new envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary of the United States, Hon. Thomas A. Osborn, had audience of His Majesty, the Emperor, at the palace of São Christovão. In presenting his credentials, Mr. Osborn addressed His Majesty as follows:

Sire,

In placing in Your Majesty's hands the letter of His Excellency, the President of the United States, which accredits me as envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary to the court of Your Majesty, it seems to me that it will not be out of place to state that I shall best comply with the instructions of my government and the dictates of my own heart by endeavoring assiduously and constantly to preserve and, if possible, to strengthen the friendly relations which have so long and so happily united our respective countries. The elevated spirit of justice which has always characterized the proceedings of Your Majesty's government with civilized nations, and especially with the United States, is a sufficient guarantee that I can rely on its cordial co-operation in the task I have before me.

It is highly agreeable to me to assure Your Majesty that the remembrance of the visit you made us is still alive in the minds of millions of my countrymen whose hearts you so well know how to captivate, and in their name I wish that Your Majesty may live long and in the enjoyment of perfect health to render your people prosperous and content.

His Excellency, the President, specially charged me to assure Your Majesty that he preserves lively recollections of his short but agreeable relations with Your Majesty, and that he esteems your friendship in the highest degree.

At the conclusion of Mr. Osborn's address, His Majesty the Emperor replied as follows:

I heartily thank my great and good friend the President of the United States for this new proof of his sentiments toward me.

The lively recollections of my visit to your country where I was so cordially received are another proof of sympathy to which I hope, Mr. Minister, you will always correspond during your mission, endeavoring to develop the relations which happily exist between our nations.

#### PANAMA CANAL TROUBLES.

After a great deal of work and any amount of noise the canal company have finished a machine shop here—a moderate-sized building, partly wood and partly brick. The upper part will be used for quarters for the men. An expert has estimated that it has cost \$1,000 more than it would have done if put up by skilful workmen.

Sickness still continues here, natives and negroes suffering. In Panama another of the four sisters of charity who came out a month ago to nurse the sick for the canal company, has died of yellow fever, and a third is down with it. The foreign hospital here has 72 patients at last advices, including 11 canal officers. Last week there were five deaths of yellow fever in the same—all Frenchmen—and another was dying. There have also been a number of deaths in the charity hospital there. This month is usually one of the worst of the year—when the southerly breezes come the death-rate at once increases. At last even M. de Lesseps has admitted that there has been yellow fever here on the isthmus. He made the statement at a meeting of the Geographical Society in Paris, as we learn.

Panama Canal shares in August were quoted in Paris at 522.50 to 530 francs per share, in fact being at a premium. "It is wonderful how they do it, yet they do," and there were large sales at the figures named.—Aspinwall Correspondence, *New York World*.

#### AMERICAN PROVISION EXPORTS.

The following return of the imports of hog and dairy products from America has just been issued by the Liverpool Provision Trade Association. The year covered is from October 1, 1886, to September 30, 1887.

#### HOG PRODUCTS.

| articles.                                 | total.    | Total weight, lbs. | Average price. | Total value. |
|---|-----------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Bacon, bxs.....                           | 594,908   | 23,175,208         | 452 cd         | 55,688,807   |
| Hams, bxs.....                            | 130,780   | 65,017,656         | 47 0           | 1,383,030    |
| Sausages, bxs.....                        | 26,000    | 13,104,000         | 31 0           | 181,350      |
| Lard, tes.....                            | 206,943   | 65,804,700         | 53 0           | 1,581,997    |
| Pork (pkd) bbls.....                      | 47,951    | 9,590,200          | 172 6          | 173,822      |
| Course meats and sundries, estimated..... |           |                    |                | 100,000      |
| Total.....                                | 1,008,582 | 438,649,824        |                | 59,109,070   |

#### DAIRY PRODUCTS.

|                   |           |             |        |            |
|-------------------|-----------|-------------|--------|------------|
| Cheese, bxs.....  | 2,166,250 | 121,310,000 | 56s cd | £3,303,750 |
| Butter, pkgs..... | 365,327   | 25,572,890  | 70 0   | 1,027,480  |
| Total.....        | 2,531,577 | 146,882,890 |        | £4,331,230 |

#### BEEF (PICKLED).

|                               |        |           |         |             |
|-------------------------------|--------|-----------|---------|-------------|
| Beef (pkd) tes.....           | 31,059 | 9,441,936 | 195s cd | £147,550    |
| Total net weight, lbs.....    |        |           |         | 594,974,650 |
| Total gross weight, tons..... |        |           |         | 331,438     |
| Total value.....              |        |           |         | £13,316,830 |

\* Per cwt. † Per bbl. ‡ Per tierce.

#### A NEW THING IN ELECTRICITY.

Telegraphic drawing is one of the latest and most interesting products of the science. At the recent Electrical Exposition in Paris, the drawing of an officer of the French grenadier guards was transmitted a considerable distance by the ordinary telegraph wires. The original sketch was done in dotted lines with metallic ink. Every time the pointer touched one of these dots, the electric current was closed and the mark reproduced at the other end of the wire. In this way the drawing was so exactly copied that the original draughtsman was unable to distinguish between his drawing and the copy thus taken.

#### THE AMERICAN COCOANUT TRADE.

Some time last year a special commissioner from some one of the little nationalities of Central America went to Ottawa, Canada, and induced Sir Leonard Tilley, minister of finance, to ask parliament to reduce the duty on cocoanuts from \$1 to 50 cents per 100 lbs. It now turns out that the entire cocoanut trade of the United States and Canada is handled by a few firms; that one of them handled 5,000,000 of the 25,000,000 nuts that come into the two countries, and that they recently combined together to put up the price, the fruit selling in Montreal at \$7 per 100, on the 1st ult.

The acting consul of the United States at Vera Cruz gives a good idea of the growth of coffee production in Mexico by informing the *New Orleans Democrat*, as follows: "In 1869, when I took charge of the consularship there, the value of the coffee shipped to this country (United States) amounted to \$671 for the year ending December 30; whereas for this year the value of the coffee shipped to this country will amount to but little short of \$2,000,000 if any."

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The expenditures on government account in the Blumenau colony in the month of July amounted to 26,958\$736.

—The Pernambuco market received 323,656 bags of sugar and 10,527 sacks of cotton during the month of November.

—A gang of robbers is patrolling the country about Goiana, province of Pernambuco. There is security neither for life nor property.

—The Rio Grande chief of police has sent to soldiers to Albarão to assist the local authorities in capturing the bandits who, recently murdered a whole family.

—The dead body of Francisco de Paula Cavalcani Wanderley Lins was found in the road at Porto de Galinhas, near Pernambuco, on the 3rd inst. He had been shot through the head from an ambush.

—The specialist, Mr. Wentworth, employed to examine the Rio Grande bar, has informed the commercial association of that city that the use of dynamite will not give good results, owing to the great extension of the two bars.

—An assassination took place recently near Campinas on the plantation of Sr. Sampaio Peixoto. A slave killed another with a hoe while on the way into the field, and then wounded the overseer with a knife. He was finally secured.

—Two slaves recently ran away from their master at Ubatuba, São Paulo. One was drowned in swimming a river, the other arrived safely at Santos on the 15th inst., where he at once surrendered himself to the police. He claims to have 600\$ in savings deposited for his freedom.

—The provincial government of Minas Geraes has purchased a painting entitled "Cajupatia Mineira," recently exhibited here, for the sum of 14,000\$. The fortunate artist is Leopoldino Joaquim de Faria, and the thrice fortunate province is borrowing money to meet this and other no less patriotic expenditures.

—The November receipts of the Rio Grande custom houses are as follows:

|                                      |              |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| Porto Alegre.....                    | 174,428\$300 |
| Rio Grande.....                      | 135,770 533  |
| Uruguayana.....                      | 29,596 145   |
| Pelotas, <i>meza de rendas</i> ..... | 34,186 087   |

—Another murder—a double one—took place near Cantagallo on the 6th inst. A Portuguese named Antonio José de Souza had a quarrel with his mistress Maria José, a freed-woman. He finally struck her, when she drew a knife and stabbed him through one of his lungs. He then drew his knife and stabbed her in the arm and through the lungs. Both died within half an hour.

—In relating the death of a man at Rochas, parish of Carmo da Escaramuna, Minas Geraes, from the effects of a rattlesnake's bite, the *Monitor Sul-Mineiro* says that the number of rattlesnakes in that place is incredible. In one burnt clearing 47 dead snakes of this species were found, a *capim* field of 12 square *brasas* produced 7, and in a half-*alqueire* cornfield 66 were killed. No time should be lost in introducing the use of permanganate of potassa in this place.

—A strange death took place in the port of Rio Grande on the 6th inst. The British bgn. *Cygnut* had been waiting five months for an opportunity to cross the bar, the vessel requiring 14½ *palmas*. On the 6th inst. the signal of that depth on the bar was given, and preparations were at once made for crossing. The cables were hardly secured to the towboat, however, before the water fell to 14 *palmas*, and the crossing could not be effected. This disappointment so affected the master, Capt. R. Thomas, that he died instantly.

—Provincial Law No. 2810, of October 24, province of Minas Geraes, relates to the introduction of colonists. It grants a loan subsidy to agriculturists on the following conditions: 1, the subsidy shall be one-half the transportation expenses from native country to their destination; 2, the transportation expenses shall not exceed 130\$ to 200\$ per capita; 3, no planter will be entitled to subsidies for more than 25 colonists; 4, the subsidies shall be paid back to the province on or before the expiration of five years. The government reserves the right of inspection. The same law authorizes the payment of subsidies to John Petty & Co., of Rio de Janeiro, for the introduction of colonists from the Azores and Canaries on the following conditions: 1, the subsidy will be 20\$ per capita for colonists over 14 years of age, and 10\$ per capita for those between 8 and 14 years; 2, the number to be introduced under this law shall not exceed 12,000, the period for introduction being three years; 3, the subsidy will be paid only on presentation of authenticated copy of contract between the colonist and planter, and will be in 6 per cent. apolices of the provincial debt. In both cases the government will recognize only those contracts made under the law of *locação de serviços* drawn in conformity with existing statutes.

—Steps have been taken to establish an engineering club in São Paulo.

—The November receipts of the Alagoas custom house amounted to 69,666\$901.

—The provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro proposes to aid in the construction of a theatre in Niteroi to the extent of 10,000\$.

—We are glad to know that every precaution has been taken in São Paulo against a spread of small pox. The cases before reported, except one, are recovering, and thus far there have been no new cases.

—Our Paulista colleagues are not all satisfied with the new prerogative assumed by the government in the deportation of obnoxious persons. In this matter they certainly show more good judgment than the morning press of this city.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The November receipts of the Barão de Ararama railway were 16,612\$060.

—The *Opiniao Liberal* of Campinas, São Paulo, says that 26 kilometers of the S. Carlos do Pinal railway are already under construction.

—The São Paulo railway has asked permission from the imperial government to add 50 wagons to its rolling stock in view of the increased traffic.

—The September receipts of the São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro railway amounted to 131,595\$160, and the expenditures to 66,834\$310, leaving a surplus of 64,760\$850. The total surplus for the quarter, July to September—was 126,976\$133.

—The work of construction has been inaugurated on the "Barra Mansa a Minas" railway. The road will have an extension of 50 kilometers, and will be built under a concession from the province of Minas Geraes.

—At a general assembly of the Carris Urbanos shareholders on the 15th inst. it was decided to submit proposals for the construction of the proposed tramway to Copacabana. A committee of five was appointed to carry on negotiations, at the head of which is the Comde de Mattozinhos.

—The *Provincia*, of São Paulo, of the 14th inst., charges that the station-masters on the Paulista railway are in the habit of exacting 20 reis per arroba for dispatching coffee. It would seem that coffee is already taxed beyond all justice, and an illegal extortion of this character is one which should not be permitted for a moment. A station-master exacting a tax of this description should be discharged immediately.

—With the 1st of January the daily express between this city and São Paulo will arrive and depart at the following hours:

Upward Express.

Leaves Rio at 5:00 a. m.;  
Arrives at São Paulo 6:00 p. m.

Downward Express.

Leaves São Paulo 6:00 a. m.;  
Arrives at Rio 7:12 p. m.

—The Leopoldina and Piaui railways of eastern Minas have organized a consolidation company under the designation of "Companhia Geral de Estradas de Ferro de Leste de Minas Geraes." The guarantees of interest by the province of Minas is 7 per cent. on a total capital of 50,000,000\$, for which the imperial government is now asked to become security. In other words the imperial government is asked to become security for an annual guarantee of 3,500,000\$.

—The sealed proposals for the construction of the Espírito Santo railway, from Victoria to Natividade, were opened on the 16th inst. The following are the proposals.

- 1.—Waring Brothers, London; agree to construct the road in three years; ask 6 per cent. guarantee, 70 years privilege; capital fixed.
- 2.—Visconde de Argozello and Luiz de Malafaia; time 4 years; guarantee 5½ per cent. gold; capital fixed.
- 3.—Faria, Cunha & Co.; time 39 months; guarantee 6 per cent. currency, or 5 per cent. gold; capital fixed.
- 4.—Domingos Loureiro da Cruz and Martiniano de Araujo Padilha; time 32 months; guarantee 6 per cent; capital fixed.
- 5.—José Mendes de Oliveira Castro, E. dos G. Bonjean, and Guilherme José Costa Vianna; time 30 months; guarantee, 6 per cent.; capital fixed.
- 6.—Luiz Augusto Ferreira de Almeida, Frederico Augusto Schmidt and João Lourenço Fernandes Aguiar; time 3½ years; guarantee 6 per cent.; capital fixed.
- 7.—Furquim Joppert & Co., and João Feliciano Pedrossa da Costa Ferreira, C. E.; time 4 years; guarantee 5 15/16 per cent; capital fixed.
- 8.—Dr. Carlos Theodoro de Bustamante; time 30 months; guarantee 5½ per cent.
- 9.—Reed, Brown & Co.; time 3½ years; guarantee 6 per cent.; capital fixed.

The government will await the proposals deposited at the foreign legations before making any choice.

—The November receipts of the Carangola railway amounted to 45,255\$340.

—Nearly all the São Paulo railways have adopted the practice of selling "return" tickets.

—The excursion tickets on the Dom Pedro II railway for exhibition visitors are good only for ten days, excepting those issued during the last ten days of the exhibition which are not valid beyond the day after the closing. The tickets issued are for 1st-class passengers, and are allowed an abatement of 50 per cent.

—The minister of agriculture has declined to grant concessions to Boller Lino and Alfredo Silveira da Mota for a railway from Paranaguá to the Sete Quedas on the Rio Paraná, and to Harben & Co. for surveys and preference for a line from Barra do Pirahy or Sta. Isabel do Rio Preto to some point in the province of Goyaz or Matto Grosso.

—A system of lighting railroad cars with gas has been tried on the Baltic railway. The gas is made on the cars by the action of sulphuric acid and zinc, the resulting hydrogen being carburetted by being passed through naphtha vapor. It is said that the gas has very little odor, that its flame is bright, white and constant, and that it is cheaper and gives better results than stearine candles.—*Engineering News.*

From *The Greener*, New York, October 1.

THE COFFEE AND SUGAR PRODUCING COUNTRIES.

ECUADOR.

Coffee culture in Ecuador has hitherto been subordinate to the cultivation of cocoa, because of all the products of this equatorial region the latter thrives best and gives the most profitable returns for the outlay of capital and labor, and the time spent on it. While Ecuador in a good crop year is able to furnish 10,000 tons of coffee, its average cocoa yield is 15,000 tons. It is indeed the greatest cocoa producing country, and the size of its crop affects the price of this article more than anything else. The quality of Ecuador coffee is very similar to Colombian and Western Venezuelan sorts, and is equally appreciated.

Since the war has been raging on the west coast of America between Peru and Bolivia on the one hand, and Chili on the other, Ecuador has had all the advantages of a neutral neighbor, and none of the drawbacks, and it has made the best of it, for the trade of its port, Guayaquil, and the trade across the frontier into Peru, have become very lively on account of its being the nearest at hand.

Ecuador is therefore in a state of great prosperity, and it would have been a great pity if the late revolutionary attempt had succeeded and the President, Don Ignacio de Veintimilla, who rules the country creditably since 1876, been upset. Fortunately he and his friends were too vigilant, and the rising was speedily suppressed.

Crops vary a good deal in magnitude in the republic, for the heat and moisture are great beneath the equator, and so near important water sheds and the Cordillera. The average yield, of cocoa at least, is, however, always an abundant one, long periods of drought being rare, despite the neighborhood of the Pacific.

Ecuador separated from Venezuela and New Granada (now the United States of Colombia) in 1830, when the great republic of Colombia dissolved because it was too unwieldy, and therefore too easily the prey of "pronunciamentos." The new constitution of Ambato has introduced a slight change in the executive branch, for instead of a vice-president there are two "designados" to take the place of the president should he die or be disabled. The present first "designado" is Mr. L. Salvador, and the second "designado" Mr. J. Novoa.

The republic measures in extent 246,000 square miles, and has a population of 946,033 souls, without counting 200,000 wild Indians in the virgin forests. The country is divided into eleven provinces, and there belong to it besides the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific, with an area of 2,900 square miles, but only 60 inhabitants. The capital is Quito, with 80,000 inhabitants, while Guayaquil has a population of only 20,000.

The revenue in 1876 was \$2,317,000, and the expenditure \$3,360,000; about half of the revenue is derived from customs. As for the latter they amounted for Guayaquil alone to the ensuing gross collections:

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1871..... | \$1,371,400 |
| 1872..... | 1,591,730   |
| 1873..... | 1,672,657   |
| 1874..... | 1,442,000   |
| 1875..... | 1,047,936   |
| 1876..... | 1,174,058   |

Ecuador owes abroad £1,824,000, English loan of 1855, while the home indebtedness is \$10,150,000; reduced to silver coin the total debt of the country is only \$22,938,000.

The army does not exceed a force of 1,200 men, and the fleet only numbers three small steamers.

In 1879 the total import through the port of Guayaquil reached \$7,500,000, and there were exported \$8,684,331 worth of merchandise. The

leading articles of export in the same year were cocoa, 31,534,137 pounds, worth \$6,937,510; quinine bark \$691,891 worth; vegetable ivory (tagua) \$573,075; India rubber \$145,344; coffee, Panama hats, hides and skins, besides gold to the amount of \$693,598.

The entries at Guayaquil in 1879 were 226 vessels (including 115 steamers) of a joint tonnage of 215,831, and the departures 221 (inclusive of 115 steamers-) of together 216,056 tons. A railway connects Yaquachi with the river Chimbo.

Ecuador will of course be very much benefited by the Panama Canal after the latter is dug, the distance between Guayaquil and Panama being inconsiderable. The forwarding of railway material and coal from the United States and Europe to these important equatorial regions, the most fertile in this hemisphere, will then become a great deal less expensive than it is at present; a system of railways will penetrate into the coffee and cocoa districts, and the republic will then become what it is destined to be, one of the most opulent countries on the globe, admirably situated and commanding a most profitable trade. By that time the favorite scheme of some patriots there may be seriously thought of again, that of reconstituting the Colombia of old by re-uniting the three commonwealths separated at the time. Prosperity in all these countries may then become so great that political quarrels will be forgotten over it; this at least is to be hoped.

THE WHEAT FIELD OF CALIFORNIA.

The great wheat field of California lies in Colusa county, which also contains one of the largest farms in the world. The county comprises a large part of the Sacramento valley, and is 60 miles in length and on the average 45 miles in width. It has an area of about 1,800,000 acres, of which 1,000,000 acres grow wheat. Of this vast tract 477,000 acres are owned by 129 men, an average of 3,697 ½ acres per capita. One owns 55,000; one, 24,000; one, 20,000; three, 16,000; one, 15,000; three, 14,000; six, 10,000; one, 8,000; two, 7,000; six, 6,000; three, 5,000; eight, 4,000; five, 3,000; eighteen, 2,000; three, 1,500; thirty-six, 1,000; and twenty-nine, 500. The result has been to debar immigration and choke out tradesmen and mechanics. The largest land owner in Colusa county is Dr. Hugh J. Glenn. His farm contains 55,000 acres, and has a river frontage of 15½ miles, and is inclosed by 150 miles of fence. What is grown on 45,000 acres. The labor force employed is composed of 715 men—225 in seeding and 490 in harvesting. Eight hundred horses are required. The yield of wheat from this farm will average 1,000,000 bushels a year. Dr. Glenn commenced life with \$110. With that he purchased an ox team and crossed the plains to California. He engaged in mining and was successful. In 1850 he returned to Missouri with \$5,000 and bought and drove horses to California and Mexico. He made his first purchase of land in 1867, buying 7,000 acres at \$1.60 per acre, and a short time afterward purchased 7,000 acres more at about the same price. Since then he has been absorbing the land on either side of varying prices.—*Exchange.*

The export of cotton piece goods of all kinds from Great Britain to Brazil during the nine months ending September 30 amounted to 158,580,600 yards, against 176,799,200 yards in the same period of 1880. This is one of the many proofs of the business depression ruling here during the past year.

A shipbuilding firm on the Thames has, the *Broad Arrow* is informed, undertaken to build an ironclad of novel construction for the Brazilian government, under a contract which includes a novel series of penalty clauses. The ship is designed to steam fifteen knots per hour; but if she fails by a quarter of a knot a penalty of £2,000 is to be paid; and so for every quarter of a knot in an ascending scale, until for a shortcoming of a knot of speed per hour a penalty of £16,000 will have to be paid; while the loss of a knot and a quarter will involve a fine of £32,000, and if a speed of less than thirteen and a half knots per hour can only be attained a sum equal to one-sixth of the total price of the vessel will be forfeited. If, again, the vessel when launched draws an inch of water more than the draught named in the contract, £1,000 is to be deducted from the price to be paid for the ship, and so on, again, in an ascending scale until a penalty of £25,000 is reached for six inches excess of draught; while one-sixth of the contract price is to be forfeited if the draught exceed 20 ft. 6 in. Penalties are also fixed for excess in coal consumption per indicated horse-power per hour on a six hours full-speed trial; the penalties ranging from £2,000 for one-tenth of a pound of coal in excess of the builders' promise, to £32,000 for an excess of five-tenths. Penalties are to be enforced for any deficiency of a promised stability; so that altogether there can be little doubt that the Brazilian government will obtain exactly the kind of ship it has bargained for.—*St. James Budget.*

4  
THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departures of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and Royal Mail packet of the 24th. of the month.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, a table of freights and charters, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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Subscriptions and advertisements received at the EDITORIAL ROOMS:—34, Rua São Pedro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 23RD, 1881.

The business and publication offices of "The Rio News" will be moved to No. 79 Rua Sete de Setembro, 1st floor, during the coming week. Thereafter all business connected with this journal should be addressed to that number, or to "Caixa 721, Correio Geral," as before.

With respect to the highly interesting exhibition of national industries now opened in this city, we regret to say that our time has not permitted such an examination as will warrant a report. With a list of some 400 exhibits, widely diversified in character, a hasty examination can not serve the purpose desired. We have no intention to mask our sentiments with regard to industries which have no claim upon public sympathy—such as those who live by counterfeiting foreign productions, or are engaged in making articles of which the various parts are all imported—but at the same time we wish to do full justice to those which are deserving of all credit and encouragement. Many industrial enterprises have sprung up here which are meeting with much success—and deservedly so. Others, perhaps, are erroneously located, but at the same time they are entitled not only to a fair chance but to cordial support.

Thus far this season the health of this city has been exceptionally good. The steady improvements in street and house drainage are gradually working their sanitary changes for the better, and although they are yet far from completion and perfection there is certainly good reason for congratulation in the benefits already derived from them. With the present season, however, there has thus far been a conspicuous absence of many of the causes which have heretofore contributed to the development of contagious diseases. The season has been exceptionally cool, and it has rained almost every day for over a month—something like the good old times when the daily shower was quite as regular as the rising and setting of the sun. These constant and heavy rains have rendered the very important service of keeping the streets washed clean, and of preventing an accumulation of refuse which contributes so largely to the development of malaria. The result has been an absence of yellow fever which has not been experienced at this season for many years. With a little exertion and enterprise on the part of our city councilmen it will be possible to put this whole city in a sanitary condition such as it has not known for many years.

The government has at last vouchsafed an explanation of the reasons why six men were recently deported for "inconveniences of public order." Unhappily for ourselves, we were mistaken as to the cause. In common with many others, we had labored under the impression that these young men had been writing naughty and scandalous things in the

Corsario, that the libel laws of the country were powerless to punish them, and that the minister of justice and chief of police had resolved to cut the Gordian knot of legal delays and protection by sending them out of the country without the assistance of the courts. We were mistaken. We are solemnly informed that these six proscribed aliens, this handful of reporters and newsboys, were engaged in a *revolutionary plot!* Great God! we never dreamed of such a thing! Here we have been literally standing upon a revolutionary mine, filled with dynamite, and treason, and murder, and rapine! The public order has been threatened with riot, this peaceful land with bloodshed, the government with subversion! Even the throne itself is undermined, who knows! The traitor's knife was half drawn from its sheath; the torch of the incendiary was at the doorways of our quiet homes. Nihilism had crept in upon our slumbers, and already threatened us with destruction. We never dreamed of such a thing! That these evil plottings should have crept into Brazil is a mystery which no one can fathom. The Emperor is not a tyrant, even though he does ride about the streets with a formidable body guard threatening us with drawn swords. He is peaceful ruler, delighting in the pursuits of peace, and abhorring that which disturbs the fond day-dreams of his peace-loving subjects. Sometimes there is talk of war, a military pageant, a naval maneuver, the purchase of an ironclad—but these are no more than accidents in the existence of a quiet people. They are but the terrestrial counterparts of Prentice Mulford's dog fight in heaven. The Emperor loves to visit his schools, and museums, and exhibitions; he loves to encourage the intellectual development of his people, the material development of his country. Against him there can be no revolution! Nothing but the unreasoning aims of nihilism, the hate of all power and restraint, the morbid love of conspiracy and secret assassination, could exist under so just and peaceful a ruler. And nihilism, then, it must have been! In this direful plot, whose detection has been so opportunely achieved by our efficient chief of police, six dangerous aliens were engaged—and the government throws them overboard as it would an infernal machine. They belonged principally to that most revolutionary and treacherous of nations—the Portuguese. Though young in years, they were old in iniquity—else why should their plottings have caused so fearful a commotion in the department of justice? Their ordinary avocation was that of newspaper writing, but one of them craftily concealed his identity and revolutionary designs by hawk-ing newspapers on the public streets. Who knows how many trains of gunpowder he may not have laid! Brazilians, *ah!* Your property, your very lives are endangered! That crafty newsboy has entered your places of business, and has crammed every rathole full of dynamite! The chief has sworn it! and the city is full of it! The villain has been caught, but the danger is still in your midst and a chance spark may hoist us into eternity without time even to pay our debts. But these six aliens were not all—for the chief tells us that there were Brazilians also in the plot. Merciful heavens! And they are still at large! The alien nihilist has been sent away from these shores, let us hope, forever; but the domestic nihilist still walks our streets and whispers blood in our ears! Gore drips from his point-like finger nails, and his ragged hair hangs damp and mysterious upon his shoulders! He stands at the door of the café to catch the innocent babble of patrician coffee-drinkers; he listens beneath the *Globo's* bulletin board to learn the inmost beat of the political pulse; he sits in the public parks and gleefully dreams of osseous hail-storms

and sanguiferous floods! We are protected against the infernal machinations of the foreigner, but a home-manufactured vengeance, a national revolutionary plot, still hangs over us, before which even the minister and his chief stand at bay. Let all good citizens free their slaves, pay their tailor bills, and make all due testamentary donations while it is yet time, for the nihilist comes when we know not and even before legislative provisions can be made for his reception. Through the sublime skill of our chief of police, this one great emergency has been met, but who knows but what men, instead of boys, may take up this broken plot and carry it through to a destructive and lamentable end!

The case of the slave girl Monica is still unsettled, and is becoming more and more complicated every day. This unhappy girl was admitted to the hospital in Niterohy on the 1st instant in a terribly mutilated condition. The police authorities were called in, and the girl's deposition was at once taken. Still under the mortal fear of those who had so cruelly punished her, she accused a former master, the Barão da Penha, of the deed. With this deposition in hand the editor of the *Gazeta da Tarde*, Sr. José do Patrocínio, took up the case and denounced the supposed author of this inhuman cruelty. The Barão da Penha, however, proved that he sold the girl some three years since, and that her accusation was false. And then began the laborious process of subduing the wretched girl's fears and extracting a true statement as to the author and cause of her injuries. A very mistaken movement was inaugurated by the *Globo* in the raising of money by subscription to purchase her freedom so that she might testify without fear of future punishment. Such a step is not only a confession of cowardice and weakness before a slaveholder's wrath, but it is unjust to the girl herself as it will leave her crippled and helpless—should she recover—with a hard necessity of supporting herself. The lightest penalty that can be inflicted upon the author of so brutal an offense is the ample support of his victim through all her life. Under the spur of newspaper denunciation, originated and led by the *Gazeta da Tarde*—and unsupported, we regret to say by the *Jornal do Commercio* and *Cruzeiro*—the investigations of the police have developed that Monica belongs to Francisco da Silva Mourão, that she was sent to the hospital from his house, that she was always kept under the strictest restraint and was allowed no communication with anyone outside, and that repeated beatings and cries had been heard by employees about the grounds who were never permitted to enter the house. The poor slave seems to have lived under constant punishment, both at the hands of her master, her mistress, and a small boy who always accompanied her. What devilish spite prompted these cruelties, we know not; but it is sufficient to know that the girl Monica has been so bruised and cut that she probably can not recover from them. Her head and body were literally covered with scars, sores and wounds. It is alleged that her mistress was the principal author of these wounds, and an assistant gardener says that the punishments were most frequent while the master was absent during the day. And to meet all these sworn statements, and the depositions of physicians to the effect that the injuries are due to violence and wounds, the mistress deposes that Monica's condition is due to syphilis, and refusal to take proper care of herself. And to support this statement, she suddenly disappears when the testimony becomes too strong against her. The whole affair is so clear a case of savage brutality that so wretched a defense serves only to intensify it. Before

such bruises and gaping wounds there can be no denial of cruelty. It is probable that the Mourões never dreamed that the case would be made public, nor would it have been had it not been for one intrepid man, José do Patrocínio—the editor of the *Gazeta da Tarde*. Himself an offspring of this down-trodden race and an uncompromising foe of slavery and its hateful practices, he had the courage to publish the crime and denounce the supposed author. And since, when the Barão da Penha refused to accept the reparation offered and prosecuted him for *injúrias*—which admits of no defense—Sr. Patrocínio has had the rare courage to refuse the employment of a *lesta de ferro* and to assume all responsibility himself. An example like this should be so branded into the public conscience that no man hereafter will ever dare to insult a court of justice with a vagabond *lesta de ferro*—a hired substitute for his responsibility. That this case of cruelty has been so far investigated and denounced is a matter for sincere congratulation, and the journalist who has had the nerve to originate and prosecute it is one to whom all honor is due. As to the poor slave girl herself, death will probably end her sufferings, and with it her unhappy servitude. Her wrongs, grievous as they are, are not alone the physical injuries from which she is suffering, but they are the degrading, infamous wrongs under which she and her race have so long suffered. And in this respect, the Mourões are but the instruments of the one great criminal—the institution of slavery itself. Society must bear its share of this guilt of persecution and brutal torture, for the system which it has so zealously nurtured and protected is in its turn the nurse of all these inhuman cruelties, this callous indifference to the sufferings and rights of an enslaved race. As long as slavery endures these crimes will continue to be practiced; and just as long as its influence is predominant the criminals themselves will go unpunished. We do not expect to see the Mourões suffer punishment for this barbarity—possibly this murder; for their crime is but a fair sample of what is being practiced daily all over this empire—and those who know anything about plantation life, know that we speak a burning truth. Until the accursed institution is abolished, and years have elapsed, there can be no exemption from these terrible crimes, for justice and mercy are not the fruits of so barbarous and so infamous a system.

THE NEW TARIFF.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE.

Rio de Janeiro, December 13, 1881.

I have before me the official letter which the board of directors of the Associação Commercial of Rio de Janeiro directed to me on the 9th instant, requesting that I should not promulgate the new customs tariff and should await the exposition of national industry in order that there may be established the bases for an investigation necessary for determining the industrial state of the country, and, in view of the result of this investigation, for preparing a tariff which will give to the said industry the protection which may be necessary for its development.

In reply it devolves upon me to inform the same association that measures have already been taken for making the investigation sought, to the end of determining the state of our industries and which of them, possessing elements for growth, may need any protection.

This, however, does not hinder the provisional execution of the tariff, seeing that it contains measures beneficial to commerce and to the industries themselves, there remaining to the legislative power, to whose approval the tariff will be submitted, the right to amend it in conformity with the most suitable opinion.

God protect your excellencies,  
JOSÉ ANTONIO SARATTA,  
To the President and Secretary of the Associação Commercial.

Mexico levies a protective duty of \$8 per barrel on imported flour.

LOCAL NOTES.

The Emperor has appointed Hugh Wilson, Esq., of the Central Bahia railway, a *commodore* in the Order of the Rose.

The minister of finance has nominated the following commission to make a minute inquiry into the state of domestic industries with a view determining their need of protection; Dr. Fabio Alexandrino de Carvalho Reis, Assistant Inspector Alexandre Affonso da Rocha Sattamini, and Confeirente Honorio Alonso Baptista Franco.

The *Cruzeiro* objects to the minister's new tariff because it will prejudice some 30,000 people employed in industrial establishments. But how about the ten millions outside of those establishments? Shall the latter be relieved of some of these tariff burdens, or shall they be compelled to pay more because these industries complain that they can not live under anything less than prohibitive protection?

Some of our quick-witted contemporaries have just arrived at the conclusion that the sale of Botanical Garden stock in this city was to acquire local influence. Well, suppose it was? When it transpires that local influence is the only thing which can protect foreign capital against such "stand-and-deliver" attacks as that of July last, then local influence is a pretty good thing to have! Something like having a watchman in the house to guard the spoons, William!

The proposals for the purchase of slaves belonging to a deceased Portuguese subject, which we have before noticed, were opened at the Portuguese consulate in this city on the 19th inst. And the documents will be officially signed by the Portuguese consul. And Portugal will continue to pose as an anti-slaveholding nation. And the £3,000,000 sterling paid to Portugal by Great Britain as compensation for renouncing the Brazilian slave trade is forgotten. And eternal justice sleeps!

Our colleagues are evidently laboring under the impression that Mr. Walter Blaine is the chief of the commission recently sent to the West Coast republics by the United States government. This is a mistake. The head of the commission is William Treseout, Esq., who has already served upon two important missions, that of the Canadian fishery question, and the Chinese treaty. Mr. Treseout is an able jurist, and is a recognized authority in international law. Mr. Blaine is subordinate on this recent mission, as he very properly should be both from his age and inexperience.

According to a statement of the ex-manager of the *Cruzeiro*, that journal has been receiving a subsidy of 1,000\$ per month from some secret fund. We hope the statement is untrue, as "subsidized patriotism is not a beautiful thing to contemplate. We would prefer to think that all our colleague's effort in behalf of slavery, national industry, public improvements, and ministerial honesty and efficiency, came from the heart—and not from the pocket. And then, too, our colleague is a foreigner—and should keep up that highly desirable reputation of foreign disinterestedness.

According to the new theatre regulations, every manager is required to give free admission to the five members of the Conservatorio Dramatico, with a right to a permanent choice of seats. What a pudding! And no representation can be given without the consent of the same Conservatorio and the chief of police. And then the license can be withdrawn whenever the representation is considered offensive to morals, to decency, and to religion. That's good! Now let the aforesaid authorities be introduced to some of the little nuisances of the public street, and see if they can detect anything offensive to morals and decency there! There's nothing like consistency.

A little negro girl of 9 years was sent from the Gloria police station to the chief of police on the 11th inst. with a seriously burned right hand. An examination developed the statement that her mistress had thrust her hand into a pot of boiling water as a punishment. A humane mistress that! A fair outgrowth of the accursed institution! She resides on the Gloria hill, and the *Gazeta de Noticias* discreetly cuts her name down to Adelaide. Better had it been Hecate! But then, it would seem to be politic to treat all these brutal masters and mistresses with great consideration, even though their helpless victims should die from their inhuman treatment.

The Rio public is informed through the daily press that Eduardo Arthur, whilom manager of a transitory project for a permanent American exhibition in this city, has taken his departure for New York where he intends to develop commercial relations between the United States and Brazil, on a large scale. Sr. Arthur places his services at the disposal of all his friends. We beg to inform our New York friends of Sr. Arthur's coming, and of his beneficent intentions. Down here we are prepared for a regular commercial landslide. Another object of Sr. Arthur's visit—though he doesn't say so—is to answer questions about exhibitions in Brazil. It will be a good opportunity for those who have already consigned.

According to the best estimates the next Chamber of Deputies will have about 50 conservatives. —*Si Deus pro me, quis adversus me?* sings victorious Bezerra de Menezes in the 3rd district. We give it up! It's mighty hard on "Deus," though!

The Barão do Cuyubá still intends to take his departure for the United States at an early day. He places his services and time wholly at the disposal of all his friends.

Edison's representatives in this city have entered a protest against the application of Mauá for an exclusive privilege for the use of electricity for motive power and illuminating purposes.

According to a telegram received on the 14th inst. a torpedo launch has just been completed for the Brazilian government by Messrs. Yarrow & Co., of London. The launch will be shipped in sections.

The city council has published a by-law prohibiting cow-stables in the central parts of the city. Those now existing must be removed as soon as their licenses expire. This step is deserving of unmitigated praise.

The government by a decree of the 17th inst. opens an extraordinary credit of 40,000\$ in the department of empire to meet the expenses incurred in procuring blanks, books, etc., for the late registry and general elections.

There is a very large number of contested election cases before the Chamber. It is not at all unlikely that a large part of the impending session will be consumed in the debates over these cases. Both sides need the representatives.

A question has already arisen as to the best site for the new university. As the university itself is only a project as yet, there would seem to be little or no hurry for the selection of grounds. Its present site is in the clouds.

There have been the usual number of rumors as to the intention of Premier Saraiva to resign at the opening of parliament. The latest rumor, however, is that he will not resign, but will present some important modifications to the emancipation law.

A petition has been presented to the government asking for the re-establishment of capital punishment, in view of the increasing number of crimes. The council of state, however,—that anomalous branch of government—has rejected the petition by a vote of five to two.

The first preparatory session of the new Chamber was held on the 13th inst., under the presidency of Deputy Martinho Campos. There were 14 deputies present. The business before this provisional organization is simply that of examining credentials and settling disputed elections.

Owing to the recent decision of the minister of finance to put the new tariff revision into effect on the 1st of January, some of the exhibitors at the industrial exposition have resolved not to send their products to Buenos Ayres. That's pure childishness. Too much pap has spoiled these children.

Count Koskul, for many years the Russian ambassador to this court, took his final departure for home on the 15th inst. During his long residence here he enjoyed the confidence and esteem of the Brazilian government and people to a high degree, and his withdrawal is universally regretted.

The minister of justice has sent the documents relative to the injuries sustained by William Withers at Cariytha, Paraná, to the president of that province, with a request for information. The minister directs that the provincial authorities shall afford all due protection to Mr. Withers and to his property.

The withdrawing manager of the *Cruzeiro* has met the prosecution for "injurias," brought against him by his former colleagues, by offering a *letra de ferro*. It will be remembered that Sr. Mello made his statements over his own name, but somehow the law permits him to offer a substitute for prosecution and punishment.

Our active contemporary, the *Globo*, has begun the publication of an illustrated weekly edition, devoted to fashions and civic virtue. Some interested friends are suggesting that a windmill should be placed in the background of the title vignette, but as that we are undecided. Perhaps the *Revista Illustrada* can suggest something!

It is announced that Dr. Ladislao Netto, director of the Museu Nacional, will leave for Paris on the 30th instant with the purpose of visiting the island of Marajó and other localities for the collection of archeological specimens. Dr. Netto expects to find abundant proofs of the early existence of the Toltecs or Aztecs in the Amazon valley.

The closing exercises of Miss Leslie's school for girls—known as the Collegio Gregorio—took place at the conservatory of music on the evening of the 14th inst. There was a large attendance of the friends and patrons of this most excellent school, and everything passed off successfully. In a very short space of time this institution has won a high standing among the private schools of this city, and its success is but the well-earned reward of its capable and devoted directress and corps of teachers.

The General Assembly opens on the 31st inst. —Imperial decree No. 8,341, of the 17th inst., provides for the resuscitation of the extinct bureau of statistics, and makes it a sub-section in the department of empire.

The city council proposes to strictly enforce the by-law forbidding excavations in the public streets during the hot season. That is right.

If there is not protection enough to guarantee profits to domestic manufacturers, how is it that the Brazil Industrial cotton factory is so good an investment that its stock commands a large premium?

THE Mexican correspondent of the *Cologne Gazette* sends home a glowing account of the rapidly increasing prosperity of Mexico. After a long period of pronouncements and revolutions a reign of peace and tranquillity appears to have set in, and the Mexicans, instead of devoting their energies to destroying one another and devastating the fairest portions of their country, are now seriously engaged, with the assistance of capitalists from the United States, in developing the resources of their land. Concessions have been granted to two railway companies, one of which, the Mexican National Railway Company, is constructing a line from the capital to El Salta, which will place the city of Mexico in direct railway communication with New York, the length of the line being 1,200 miles; while the other company, the Mexican Central Railway Company, is constructing a line from the capital again to El Paso, with a branch to the Pacific coast, thus establishing direct communication with San Francisco—the government having bound itself to pay to each company a subsidy of 12,000 dollars, for every mile of railway completed. Hundreds of other concessions of every kind have been granted to American capitalists. Mines which have not been touched for a century are being again worked; haciendas which before could not support their proprietors now pay well; cotton mills, sugar factories, etc., are springing up on all sides; and over 50,000 Indians who before were idle are now employed on the railway works. The revenue of the country has increased, and the government has now been able for three years to pay its officials regularly. The city of Mexico itself is rising up again like a phoenix from its ashes. Whole streets are bought up by Americans, pulled down, and rebuilt. Good shops are being opened; and even schools are being established; but, unfortunately, there is a dearth of teachers. Mexico, in a word, the correspondent concludes, appears to be in a fair way to regain an honorable position among the nations.—*St. James Budget*.

MONTHLY SUMMARY.

Meteorological observations taken at Braz, in the city of S. Paulo, during the month of November 1881, by the

Companhia Cantareira e Escolas.

Lat. 23° 22' 28" S. Long. 46° 39' 45" W. (Greenwich.) Height of barometer: 2,333 ft. above mean sea level. Do of rain gauge: 2,378 5/8 ft. do do. Mean pressure at 9 a.m. 27.599 inches; at 9 p.m. 27.587 inches. Mean pressure corrected and reduced to 32° Fahr. at mean sea level at 9 a.m. 29.905 inches; at 9 p.m. 29.884 inches. Mean temp. of air at 9 a.m. 68.6°; at 9 p.m. 64.1° Fahr. Mean of max. tem. in shade, 78.8°; do. min. in shade 59.1° F. Mean temperature of Grass minimum therm. 55.8° Fahr. Highest reading of max. of therm. in shade (4th) 90.4°. Lowest reading of Grass minimum therm. (23rd), 41.9° F. Lowest reading of min. of therm. in shade (23rd), 49.1°. Mean temp. of dew point at 9 a.m. 62.4°; at 9 p.m. 61.2° F. Mean elastic force of vapor at 9 a.m., .573 in.; at 9 p.m., .547 in. Total rainfall for the month, 5.11 inches. Maximum fall of rain in one day (1st) 1.40 inch. Rain fell on 15 days. Fog on the morning of the 29th. Dew on the mornings of 20th and 29th, and evenings of 15th, 19th and 22nd. Thunder and lightning on the 1st, 5th, 9th, 14th, 20th and 27th. Lightning seen, but thunder not heard, on 4th, 8th and 17th. Thunder heard, but lightning not seen on 8th, 13th, 19th, 26th and 27th. Lunar corona was observed on the 3rd at 8.30 p.m.

HENRY B. JOYNER, A.M., I.C.E., F.R.G.S. & F.M.S. Engineer in chief.

COMMERCIAL

December 23rd, 1881.

Par value of the Brazilian mil reis (1\$000), gold 27 d. do do do in U. S. coin at \$4.84 per £1, stig. 54 45 cents. do \$1.00 (U. S. coin) in Brazilian gold. 1837 do of £1, stig. in Brazilian gold. 8889 Bank rate of exchange on London to-day. 21 1/2 Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (paper) 796 rs. gold. do do in U. S. coin at \$4.80 per £1, stig. 43.00 cents Value of \$1.00 (\$4.80 per £1 stig.) in Brazilian currency (paper). 28 3/8 Value of £1 sterling " " 11 1/2

EXCHANGE.

Dec. 14.—The banks opened to-day at the rates of yesterday, viz: London..... 22 90 1/2 Paris..... 431-132 Hamburg..... 534 New York..... 24300 3 1/2 Portugal..... 243 7/8

but withdrew them after 11 a. m., the Banco Commercial then affixing those of 433 on Paris 244 7/8 on Portugal.

On London all the banks drew at 21 1/2 with the exception of the Bank of Brazil which left out of the market. Sovereigns sold at 1187 1/2 and 1182 1/2 cash and at 1185 00 for the 18th inst.

Dec. 15.—The Banco Commercial maintained the rates of 433 on Paris and 241 7/8 on Portugal, and the other banks remained without rates. Some small transactions were effected on London at 21 1/2 bank and 21 1/2-21 1/2 private, and on France at 433 bank paper. Sovereigns sold at 1187 1/2 for the 20th instant.

Dec. 16.—The English Bank, Banco Commercial and Banco do Commercio adopted to-day the rates of London..... 21 1/2 Paris..... 437 Hamburg..... 530 New York..... 24350

The market showed somewhat more firmness but the business done was again unimportant. Private paper was negotiated at 21 1/2, 21 1/2 private and 22 on London and 429-431 on France. Sovereigns sold at 1187 1/2 cash.

Dec. 17.—The rate of 21 1/2 on London became general to-day in all the banks; the official rates were London..... 21 1/2 Paris..... 436-437 Hamburg..... 540 New York..... 24320-2 3/8 1/2 Portugal..... 243 5/8

Small transactions were effected in bank paper at 21 1/2 on London and in private paper at 21 1/2 and 21 1/2 private on London and at 431 on France. Sovereigns sold at 118200 cash.

Dec. 19.—There was no alteration in the rates of the banks and the market was flat and inactive, some small transactions being effected at 21 1/2 bank and 21 1/2-21 1/2 private paper on London and 429-431 private paper on France. Sovereigns sold at 118200 cash.

Dec. 20.—The banks opened to-day at 21 1/2 on London, but withdrew this rate at 12 o'clock, and some transactions were then effected at 21 1/2 and 21 3/8, the closing rate being 21 1/2. Private paper on London was negotiated at 21 1/2, 21 1/2 and 21 1/2. Sovereigns sold at 118250 and 11 200 cash.

Dec. 21.—This morning transactions in bank paper on London were effected at 21 1/2, afterwards at 21 1/2, and then again at 21 1/2 on head offices, the market closing with an appearance of firmness. Official rates existed only in the Banco Commercial which, after 1 p. m., adopted those of London 21 1/2 on Paris 254 7/8 on Portugal

Private paper on London was passed in the morning at 21 1/2, afterwards at 21 1/2 and 21 3/8, and then at 21 1/2, 21 1/2 and 21 1/2. Sovereigns sold at 118750 and 11 270 cash.

Dec. 22.—The market opened to-day with the rate of 21 1/2, adopted by the Commercial Bank and the New London & Brazilian Bank, their official rates being London..... 21 1/2 Paris..... 448 Hamburg..... 554 New York..... 24390 Portugal..... 251 and 250 7/8

The other banks also drew at 21 1/2 with the exception of the Bank of Brazil which has for some time kept entirely out of the market. In private paper transactions were effected at advancing rates, from 21 1/2 to 21 1/2 on London and 446 to 443 on France.

The market closed very firm and at the last moment bank paper was obtainable at above official rates. Dec. 23.—The banks opened to-day with the official rate of 21 1/2 on London and the market continues firm with an upward tendency.

With reference to the recent decline in exchange the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 15th inst. makes the following observations: "It is not easy to guess the cause of the depression which exchange has suffered during the last few days. It is generally said that there is little money for exchange, large remittances having been made some time previously; the sales of coffee in this market and of other products in the north must have produced some losses. These facts ordinarily cause firmness in exchange in this market, however, the contrary is the case. We state the facts without further comments, for the takers of bills at low rates have perhaps very good reasons for it which we ignore, and if they err in their calculations they will at least gain experience which is worth more than gold."

The *Diario Official* of Dec. 23 says: The manner in which it has been sought to explain the fall in exchange, attributing it to difficulties of the treasury, has not a shadow of foundation. To tranquilize the minds of people of good faith and for the information of commerce, we judge it convenient to say a few words for the purpose of clearing away the dust raised by the authors of such a rumor.

From the last balance-sheets of the treasury it appears that our floating debt, represented by notes and by the account current with the Bank of Brazil, does not exceed 34,000,000\$000.

Putting aside the sum of 16,000,000\$, which merely constitutes anticipated revenue and has to be recovered during the financial year, the remainder corresponds to the large cash balances which exist in London and the provinces.

All payments being made up to date, and the treasury feeling no embarrassment whatever, it may be said with safety that only in anticipation there have been emitted notes with the interest of 4 and 1/2% at a year's date. As the debt, the consolidation of which is necessary, is less than 24,000,000\$, the government has not judged it opportune to realize any credit operation for that amount though it is duly authorized to do so, seeing that the product of the ordinary revenue is meeting the expenses with the continuation of the material improvements already commenced.

It is reasonable, therefore, to look elsewhere for the cause of the present decline in exchange; it cannot, most certainly, be attributed to the treasury, unless it be pretended that its retiring from the market has the power of provoking crises of that nature, which is deniable.

SALES OF STOCKS AND SHARES.

December 13. 80 Banco Industrial..... 238 000 200 Sorocabana RR till Jan. 31, buyers option 122 000 330 do for March 4, outside sale 130 000 63 Carangola R.R. 202 000 64 Navegacao Nac. till Feb. 28th buyer's up'n 310 000

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Navegação Brasileira, Docas D. Pedro II, Banco Predial hyp. n., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Banco do Brasil, Navegação Brasileira, Navegação Nacional, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Banco Industrial, Caracola R. R., Sorocabana R. R., etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes National Loan of 1868, Banco do Brasil, Banco do Comercio 2nd serie, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes New Orleans Nor bk Kangahyd, New York Br bgn Genoa, Savannah Nor lug Hamard, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Hamburg Gr str Montevideo, Southampton, Antwerp, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Washell, Superior, Good first, Regular first, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Flour, 4,815 half bags per Sarcob from River Plate, 3,900 do do Galicia from Chile, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Trieste, Gallap, Haasil, Dunlop, O'Dance, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Market firm, The arrivals consist of 550 kegs per D. Pedro II from Baltimore, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Market firm, The arrivals consist of 415-450 reis per lb. for George, etc.

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Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Coals-Arrivals, 373 tons per Ceres from Cardiff, 2,142 do do Langridge Hall from do, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes Receipts, 100 cases per Alona from Hamburg, 620 cases, 25 barrels per Corrientes from do, etc.

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MARKET REPORT. Rio de Janeiro, Dec. 27th, 1881. Esports. Coffee.-During the period under review, since our report on the 14th instant, currency prices here remained stationary with the exception of those of superior which, these grades being in small demand, declined 20 reis per to kilos.

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SHIPPING NEWS.

Table with 2 columns: Item name and price. Includes ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN VESSELS, DECEMBER 14, CARDIFF-Gr bk Ceres, 283 tons; Sacken; 53 ds; coal to order, etc.

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GOVERNMENT BONDS

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

BANKS AND PUBLIC COMPANIES

Table with columns: CAPITAL, SHARES, ISSUED, VALUE, PAID UP, NAMES, RESERVE FUND, LAST QUOTATION, LAST DIVIDEND. Lists various banks and public companies with their financial details.

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In the question of abolition "The News" will still use its influence in favor of the earliest possible emancipation of the slaves. An institution so demoralizing and hurtful in its direct influence upon the dominant classes and so wasteful and imperfect an instrument of labor, can not be otherwise than an economic evil of the greatest magnitude...

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ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNED TO. Lists arrival dates and agents for various steamers.

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DEPARTURES OF FOREIGN STEAMERS

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE TO, CARGO. Lists departure dates and destinations for various steamers.

\* Calling at intermediate ports.

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Capital..... £ 1,000,000  
Capital paid up..... " 500,000  
Reserve fund..... " 165,000

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Messrs. MALLET FRERES & Co., PARIS,  
Messrs. J. H. SCHROEDER & Co., HAMBURG,  
Messrs. MORTON, BLISS & Co., NEW YORK.

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HEAD OFFICE IN LONDON

BRANCHES: RIO DE JANEIRO, PERNAMBUCO AND SANTOS

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Ditto, paid up..... £ 500,000  
Reserve Fund..... £ 150,000

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Ox Tails, Stewed Kidneys,  
Potted Tongue, Spiced Beef,  
Fresh Beef, etc.

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BEING A BOY AGAIN, by Warner;  
JACK AND JILL, by Miss Alcott;  
etc., etc.  
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**ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET COMPANY**

Under contracts with the British and Brazilian Governments for carrying the mails.

**TABLE OF DEPARTURES, 1881**

| DATE    | STEAMER       | DESTINATION   |
|---------|---------------|---|
| Dec. 24 | Douro .....   | Southampton and Havre via Bahia, Maceió, Pernambuco and Lisbon. |
| " 30    | Derwent ..... | Southampton and Antwerp via Bahia, Pernambuco, etc.             |

The outward steamers are due here about the beginning and middle of each month; proceeding to the River Plate, after the necessary stay in this port.

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Monograms,  
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