

# THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 15TH, 1895.

NUMBER 3

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From the Montevideo Times, Dec. 28.

THE CHOLERA PANIC.

This panic continues in full force, and our contemporaries are full of what may be described as "cholera literature," though every day shows the panic and the extreme measures taken to be less justified. We note, however, that our contemporaries are less eager in their demand for such extremities. Perhaps the threat of closing the port, and the loss and inconvenience already caused, are cooling them down and will bring about a reaction. Amongst the worst sufferers are the poor hotel and lodging-house keepers, who find themselves suddenly deprived of the annual harvest they expect to reap from Argentine visitors. The shopkeepers and commerce in general will also severely feel the difference, if the quarantine is prolonged. In fact there is hardly a branch of trade that will not suffer. The sanitary guards, however, will benefit, for we hear that not only are the river steamship companies compelled to give them food and lodging on board and to pay them \$2 gold for the pleasure of their company, but are also expected to continue the same during the 8 days quarantine to which they become subject! This is certainly a monstrous imposition. With the loss of passenger traffic and heavy extra sanitary charges, it is quite possible that the river service will be suspended entirely, except for a weekly trip to Uruguayan ports.

No startling novelty appeared yesterday. The five "suspected" cases in Buenos Aires all proved to be of the most ordinary description, to which no attention would have been paid in normal times. However, to keep the ball rolling, two more were reported yesterday, which will probably prove of the same description. Some four more cases have appeared in Rosario, two of them fatal, but it is not yet definitely proved that they are anything more than an acute form of cholera. Two fatal cases, which the alarmists immediately stigmatise as cholera, are also reported from San Nicolas. There is no doubt there is a slight epidemic in the Rosario and Santa Fé district, but not one of the medical authorities have yet ventured definitely to pronounce it as characteristic Asiatic cholera, although it is evident they are only too anxious to have the glory of doing so. Neither is it proved that the disease, whatever it is, is dangerously epidemic. Nearly every case has been traced to ordinary causes, such as unhealthy food or living. However, in Argentina and they are taking precautions to prevent it developing into anything more serious. Amongst other things they have prohibited the sale of unripe fruit and of ices, two fertile causes of intestinal derangements in hot weather.

An attempt has been made to trace the appearance of the epidemic to the uncovering of the corpses of some cholera patients who were buried near Santa Fé in 1886. If these had been cremated there never would have been any danger on this score.

We are glad to say that the local health authorities have at last thought them of some internal measures, and have ordered the sanitary inspectors to keep a sharp eye on the common lodging-houses, (convencillos) and other centres of unhealthiness and infection, also ordering any measures of disinfection that may be found necessary. If they had done their duty in this respect from the first, they need not have been so mightily afraid of infection and could have dispensed with quarantine measures so immensely injurious to commerce, and which are sure to provoke an equally injurious reprisal on the first opportunity. Fortunately no "suspected case" has been declared here yet, and with ordinary care and the return of milder weather we ought to keep free.

RAMOS MEJIA'S SURRENDER.

On the 11th inst. the Argentine legation of this city received the following telegram from Buenos Aires:

"In view of information received, the department of hygiene yesterday sanctioned the following resolution which it asks the government to put into execution at once. It reads:

In view of favorable information from our minister in Rio de Janeiro in relation to the progress of cholera in Brazil, and while this state does not become worse, the national department of hygiene resolves:

Art. 1.—The sanitary treatment for arrivals from Brazil is hereby reduced to prudential observation only for the ships which carry a medical inspector on board.

Art. 2.—The ships from Brazil which enter the port of the Capital should be subjected to the prescriptions of the decree of 24th October, 1893, and 9th March, 1894, relative to the embarkation of fiscals (guardas).

Art. 3.—The ships on board of which have occurred cases of cholera, or yellow fever, during the voyage, or while remaining in port, will be subject to the prescriptions of the sanitary regulations.

Art. 4.—The dispositions of the department relative to the disinfection of immigrants, remain in force.

Art. 5.—The confirmation of these resolutions is hereby solicited from the superior government.

The sanitary condition of the ports of Buenos Aires and La Plata is completely satisfactory. There is no news from Rosario, Santa Fé and Colón. The rest of the republic is uninfected. Salutations, Sr. Minister.—J. M. Ramos Mejia, president of the department of hygiene. F. A. Vaz, secretary.

# THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

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, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee report from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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EDITORIAL AND PUBLICATION OFFICES:—

70, Rua Sete de Setembro.

POSTOFFICE ADDRESS:—Caixa 560.

RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 15th, 1895.

The absurdity of our ordinary precautions are now shown to good advantage along the Central railway, where a kind of quarantine is maintained against the infected districts of the Parahyba valley. To be valuable, a quarantine should be effective, which is very rarely the case. The gate is closed, perhaps, but there are a hundred holes in the fence each side through which contagion can creep. To illustrate this, let us cite a few examples. The place which has suffered most from the epidemic is Barra do Pirahy, where there have been about 120 cases of illness up to the present time. The passenger trains on the Central railway do not stop at this station, to avoid infection—but they stop about 50 yards outside, where passengers are permitted to leave the coaches and converse with the residents, buying food, fruit, etc., and even to walk up to the station. It is nothing but a roaring farce! If there is infection in the Barra, then it is just as dangerous 50 yards away from the station, as in the station itself! And it is particularly dangerous in the water and fruits supplied to the passengers. Every one of these passenger trains includes a sanitary coach, loaded down with *bribs*, remedies and authority. The sanitary inspector runs the train. And yet, he is not at all aware that it is a silly farce to run through the Barra station, and then stop 50 yards beyond, where the passengers are permitted to mingle with the residents just as freely as they could possibly do in the station itself. When the train reaches Belém, then the grand display of scientific prevention begins! It is unquestionably one of the most brilliant comedies of the day! The arriving train is carefully run in on the track opposite the station, the passengers are compelled to alight on that side where they are interrogated as to name, age, nationality, business and residence, where their bags and parcels are ticketed and taken away from them for disinfection, where they are sprinkled or drenched with a disinfecting fluid by means of a syringe, and where they are then compelled to wash their faces and hands in disinfectants. What good the foul smelling fluid does, the Lord only knows. The victim is then marched into a kind of tent, or shed, where he waits until the so-called disinfecting process is finished. Wet and chilled, his situation is anything but comfortable. Add to this the consciousness that men of influence, and those who stubbornly refuse to submit to the "disinfecting," are allowed to escape the infliction and consequent discomfort, and to retain their bags free of disinfection, and we have enough to cause an illness even where one did not exist. Then when the disinfection is finished, the passengers are sent across the track and are permitted to return to their coaches, where they find everything wet and smelling of carbolic acid. The sanitary guards have been throwing water containing carbolic acid all over the coaches, inside and out, and have left them in that condition for the hour's ride into the city! One may escape the bacillus comma in this way, but if he escapes a chill, or a fever, or rheumatism, he may consider himself fortunate. His clothes are spotted, if not spoiled, and his temper is grievously upset, and if he does not say that he prefers Asiatic cholera any day to those—sanitary blockheads, it will be because he is a good practical Christian, full of forgiveness, and unable to swear.

It is singular how easily a public man can deceive himself. He thinks that a certain thing ought to be done and that he will use every effort to have it done—and then, to him, it is done. The Czar and Kaiser have for years been proclaiming peace in Europe and assuring us that they are using their very best efforts to maintain peace, and all the while they have been watching each other like angry dogs, increasing their armies and preparing for war. Apparently they really believe that they are the guardians of peace, and that by using force to repress every symptom of disturbance they are really preserving the peace. It is something like choking your adversary into insensibility in order not to fight with him. On the 13th inst. there was an exhibition of this amiable weakness in Buenos Aires which is worthy of comment. The ex-minister of foreign affairs, now minister of interior, Dr. Eduardo Costa, gave a little luncheon to the diplomatic corps, and then improved the occasion to talk about peace and disarmament here in South America. In the course of his remarks he expressed the opinion that the disarmament of Argentina, Brazil and Chili would contribute greatly to the progress of South America. We agree entirely with the opinion expressed, but we have serious doubts as to its sincerity. Dr. Costa is a man of high character and ability, and he unquestionably believes just what he says, but when we reflect that the ministry of which he is now the chief, has only just purchased a hundred thousand rifles, several batteries of Krupp guns, immense stores of ammunition, a torpedo cruiser, and various other military resources, we are compelled to doubt his sincerity. If we are not mistaken, Argentina has an order in Europe for more war ships. Chili and Brazil are also rapidly increasing their armaments, in ships, guns, rifles and ammunition. All three nations are impoverishing themselves to keep up a military force, wholly unnecessary and largely beyond their means. Disarmament would be a blessing to all three of them, but—we would like to remind Dr. Costa—disarmament does not mean the acquisition of more arms. More ships, and guns, and rifles and powder is a poor preparation for peace, and affords no relief whatever to the overburdened taxpayer. Horace Greeley once said that the way to resume specie payments, is to resume. It may be said, with equal force, that the way to disarm is to disarm! Let the ships be sold; China and Japan will buy the whole lot of them. Sell off the guns, and rifles, and cartridges also, and disband the armies! Send the generals and colonels home and tell them to earn their own living henceforth. And then remit the taxes required so that the tax-payer can at once know something of the practical blessings of peace. That prosperity will result, we are certain, and that peace and good order will follow we do not doubt. The military classes have been the prime causes of most of the disturbances in South America; turn them into plain civilians, without any special privileges, and we shall know more of peace and orderly development than Dr. Costa has dared to believe possible in his sweetest dreams.

No better testimony could have been supplied as to the accuracy of our remarks on quarantines in South America, than the *Olympo* incident of the past week. This steamer arrived at Ilha Grande on December 25th with a cargo of live cattle, wheat, etc., for this port. On the 24th she was sent up to discharge the cattle just outside the harbor entrance. On the 3rd inst. she returned to Ilha Grande to undergo quarantine preparatory to entering this port for the discharge of the remainder of her cargo. Some kind of an epidemic broke out on board, however, which proved to be very fatal. Not being a passenger steamer, the *Olympo* had no physician, and was probably provided with a very meagre supply of medicines. Help was promptly solicited from the quarantine authorities, and permission to land the sick for treatment and the dead for burial. But, though Ilha Grande is a quarantine station on which hundreds of contos have been expended for the express purpose of meeting just such cases as this, the unfortunate ship was repelled at every point. We are told that the quarantine doctor has never been on board, and up to last advices he has not even sent aboard the medicines and disinfectants so urgently needed. He

believes the epidemic to be cholera, but he does nothing whatever to overcome it. As for landing the sick and the dead, both requests were refused on the ground that they had no lazaretto hospital and no cremating furnace. The captain was therefore left to the alternative of throwing the dead overboard—which is far more dangerous than landing them for burial on an isolated island—and of caring for his sick as best he could without medicines and medical advice. This state of affairs lasted until the night of the 9th, when the captain determined to come to this port for the relief he could not obtain at Ilha Grande. He entered this port without difficulty, but was induced on the following morning by the sanitary officials of this port to return to Ilha Grande, under an express promise to send him the relief needed within twenty-four hours. This promise has not been kept, nor can we learn that any steps have been taken to do so. Another armed vessel, however, has been sent down to stand guard over these unhappy victims of cowardice, incompetence and selfishness. If they reach out for water or food, give them no mercy! They are unfortunate, and afflicted, and helpless; let them die! To save our worthless bodies from contagion, let them die! To show how enlightened and humane we are, we have built a great quarantine station, and then to keep it free from contagion we let the afflicted look on it from afar off—and die! We have a medical fraternity numbering many thousands, and we are manufacturing hundreds more every year. They are supposed to be devoting their talents and lives to the relief of the sick and suffering! And yet, not one of them has the courage to offer his services to this unfortunate ship, and barely two or three have humanity enough to protest against this cold-blooded selfishness! Talk as you may, there is no defence, no excuse for such inhumanity! A government which can do no better than this is unfit to govern, for its first and highest attribute is to protect life. And a people which consciously commit such acts of barbarism in their relations with the outside world, are unworthy a place in the sisterhood of nations. The commercial world should permit these barbarities no longer. If a country can not exist without artificial barriers to keep out contagious disease, then it should be compelled to maintain them efficiently and properly, or else to delegate the service to some properly equipped international commission. It is time that this shooting, and starving, and betraying the helpless sick should be ended! It is time that such barbarities as the expulsion of infected passenger ships from port after port, should be prohibited by the strong hand of international law! If the weaker nations are unwilling to take the risk, then a "Red Cross society" of the seas should be organized for the relief of those cast out upon its unfriendly bosom!

ACCORDING to a telegram from Buenos Aires to the Argentine legation on the 11th, the sanitary authorities of that port have thrown up the sponge and acknowledged themselves beaten at their own game. They have been taught a lesson which we trust will not soon be forgotten, for they have been made to see that quarantine is a game that two can play at, and that they no longer hold the position of advantage in the contest. They have been made to see that Brazil has become a very important customer for their products and that a war of quarantines will cause them much the greater injury. As long as Brazil took but few of their products, they amused themselves every year with the imposition of quarantine for the most trifling causes, and that too with an effrontery and arbitrariness that practically added an insult to the injury. There are good reasons for believing that they wished to compel the steamship companies to omit their calls at Brazilian ports, and to thus secure an important advantage in the commercial rivalry between the two countries. The trade with Brazil, however, has been too valuable to be ignored, and these companies have therefore submitted to every kind of vexation and prejudice rather than surrender their Brazilian connection. The last two or three years has worked an unexpected change in the situation, a change of which the Buenos Aires sanitary authorities seem to have been ignorant until within the past month. The outbreak of some kind of an epidemic in the province of Santa Fé, similar

apparently to what has been raging here, has enabled the Brazilians to return the compliment by declaring quarantine against Argentina. To the evident surprise of the Argentine officials, an immediate protest was the result, and they found that several important industries were prejudiced by this interruption to the trade between the two countries. They protested, of course, and denied the existence of a cholera epidemic in the country, but they very soon found that they could do nothing effective because of their own quarantine against Brazil, and because of the unsavory record which they have made in past years. And so, to save themselves from further loss they have been compelled to raise their quarantine against Brazil, notwithstanding the fact that the so-called epidemic here is not yet suppressed, and the further circumstance that we are just entering the months when fever generally makes its appearance. A more complete surrender has rarely been put on record, and it is all the more noticeable because hitherto the Argentines have refused even to listen to the protests against their own arbitrary action.

## RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The Argentine Senate has thrown out the general amnesty project.

—Rumors of the intended resignation of President Sarmiento are again current.

—A heavy rainstorm visited Mendoza on the 8th inst. and caused immense prejudices. The damages are estimated at two millions of dollars, currency.

—A boy of 16, belonging to one of the military battalions in Montevideo, recently tried to commit suicide. He wounded himself severely with a rifle, and when asked why he did it, he said that "it is better to die than to live under continual blows."

—Several important strikes have been in progress in Buenos Aires during the past ten days, which include the bakers, the stevedores and the laborers and sailors in the docks. It is estimated that nearly 20,000 men are involved in these strikes.

—The passenger and immigrant arrivals at Montevideo in November numbered 1,501 from across seas and 3,734 from Argentina. The departures were 433 across seas and 3,921 for Argentina in the same month. Of these 377 were from Brazil and 163 to that country.

—The following prices and resolutions have been definitely adopted by the Baker's League, and, excepting the last, seem reasonable enough. First-class bread, 8 cents the kilo. Second-class bread, to be sold to poor people over the counter, 6 cents the kilo. Bread one day old to poor people, 4 cents the kilo. No loaves exchanged or returned. No letting of ovens for the baking of private dough. —Montevideo Times.

—General Mansilla takes exception to the following criticism on Argentina which appeared in *Le Temps* of Paris:—"While foreigners work, citizens are involved in political intrigues, they occasionally fire a few shots in the streets, settle the accounts of their electoral triumphs with public money and observe the tottering condition of their government between anarchy or dictatorship." Is there really any exaggeration in the picture? That is the question. —Times of Argentina.

—A lunch was given to the diplomatic corps in Buenos Aires on the 13th by Dr. Eduardo Costa, minister of the interior and chief of the cabinet. The Brazilian minister, Dr. Fernando Abbott, was not present, and Brazil was represented by Admiral Custodio de Mello, who was one of the speakers. The principal topic was a brief expressed by Dr. Costa that Argentina, Brazil and Chili might arrange a disarmament, which he considered would contribute powerfully to the prosperity of all South America.

—Of the cholera scare and the quarantine restrictions decreed against Argentine arrivals, the *Montevideo Times* of Dec. 25th says:—"It is probable that the Uruguayan authorities will constitute Montevideo and Paysandú as the only ports of call for vessels from Argentina. At the latter a lazaret will be established on the river-island of Almiron. The board of health has constituted itself in permanent session, so as to be able to act promptly as further occasion may arise. We have not yet heard of a single preventive or sanitary measure having been taken in the capital, though they are far more necessary than these excessive quarantines. At all events the energy of the authorities seems monopolized by alarmist telegrams and quarantine measures. This is not treating the situation very seriously. Fortunately the majority of the people, or at all events the educated classes, do not share the alarm of the authorities."

—An example of provincial legislative decorum comes all the way from San Juan. One honorable deputy shot another dead in the hall of the San Juan legislature on Wednesday afternoon. Samuel Robles, the assassin, is a school teacher as well as a provincial deputy. His victim was Dr. Avelino Alvarez, a retired army surgeon. Hot words arose between them during a debate. When the session was over and Alvarez was leaving the house he met Robles in the hall and offered to shake hands with him. Robles refused. Alvarez then slapped him in the face; whereupon Robles drew a revolver and shot his colleague dead on the spot. It is by patriotic and sapient conduct like this that the spirit of republican fraternity is nourished in this federal and touching acts of this kind that the civic virtues, culture and greatness of the Latin race are manifested and vindicated. —Southern Cross.





—A Bahia telegram of the 10th says that advices from the interior of that state promise a large coffee crop.

The planters of Piauí, Minas Geraes, have made a protest against the governor of Bahia against the heavy charges imposed upon coffee. They claim that coffee from that neighborhood pays in freights and taxes over 20\$ a bag, or 5\$ an arroba, by the time it reaches Rio de Janeiro. There is a good old fable which might be quoted just here—the killing of the hen that laid golden eggs—but we forbear.

### LOCAL NOTES

—General Santos Dias has been appointed to command the 5th military district, that of Santa Catharina.

—We are advised that a letter was mailed in São Paulo to our address on the 3rd inst. It has not yet arrived. Will the postoffice look it up?

—General Roberto Ferreira left for Pará on the 10th. Within three months we shall expect to hear of political troubles in Pará so grave as to necessitate military intervention.

—The minister of finance, Dr. Rodrigues Alves, has recently purchased the Diogo Velho residence in Rua Senador Vergueiro for 115,000\$, and will soon establish his family there.

—The appointment of Dr. André Cavalcanti, the present chief of police, to the Supreme Federal Tribunal is now spoken of. He is doing so well on the police that his promotion will be sincerely regretted.

—The death of Councillor Eduardo de Andrada Pinto occurred in this city on the 10th inst. The deceased was prominent in political life in the time of the monarchy, and was generally esteemed as a man of high character and great ability.

—The *Journal* recommends the suppression of the military attachés in the legations where they are now maintained. They were designed principally as sinecures for some of the young republicans who thought that their services entitled them to live abroad at the expense of the taxpayer.

—The rainstorm which visited this city on New Year's day has been succeeded by almost daily rains. Thus far January has been exceptionally cool, and the city is phenomenally healthy. The death rate this month has been as low as 16 in one day, an abnormally low rate for a city of something over a half million population.

—The government has appointed Dr. João Baptista de Lacerda as director of the Museu Nacional. The new director has been for many years the sub-director of the physiological laboratory of the museum, and is best known, perhaps, for his experiments in connection with the use of permanganate of potash as an antidote against poisonous snake bites.

—The director of the Ilha Grande quarantine station has asked for a force of 50 soldiers ostensibly to maintain a sanitary cordon. In reality, however, they are required to keep anyone from making use of the island, and to keep the sick away. They will be provided with cartridges to shoot any poor sick wretch who may want even the poorest service which humanity can render.

—It must be admitted that there are some signs indicating prospects of improvement in the post-office. They are becoming sensitive. We were favored on the 11th inst. with a copy of the *Revista*, of Buenos Aires, of November 24th, and the date stamp was torn off the wrapper, apparently to embarrass reclamations. The next step will probably be to deliver the papers a little earlier.

—In view of the *Tecora* disaster the minister of marine has issued instructions to the captain of the port to oblige all national vessels, whether ocean-going, coasting, or engaged in port services, to carry the number of boats, life belts, and life buoys, recommended by the marine congress of Washington, and that every steamer engaged in carrying passengers in this bay should be provided with a fire engine and twelve leather buckets.

—The *Journal* says that, according to a telegram to the *Times* from Philadelphia, dated the 21st ult. a Chinese agent was here in Washington negotiating with Minister Mendonça for the purchase of the *Nichero*, with its dynamite gun, and the *Andrada*, the two phenomenal additions to the Brazilian navy made by the said minister himself. The *Journal* expresses the hope that the minister will be permitted to recoup the money which he invested in these ships, in which hopes many others will fervently join.

—A peculiar case occurred last week in the matter of quarantine restrictions. The British steamer *Olympo* had been condemned to rigorous quarantine at Ilha Grande, having had several deaths of a suspected character on board. Unable to obtain medicines and medical assistance at Ilha Grande, the captain finally resolved to come to this port, which he did. He not only left Ilha Grande without hindrance, but he came into port without difficulty. His request for medicines, etc., here met the same treatment accorded at Ilha Grande, and he was finally compelled to return there without the relief sought. The incident shows both the cowardice and heartlessness of the officials in charge of our sanitary service. They permit men to die on board a steamer without being seen by a physician, and even neglect to send them the supplies necessary to their existence.

—A pamphlet recently published by Dr. Elpidio de Mesquita, gives an account of the expulsion of 16 foreigners from Brazil by the last government. After ten months' imprisonment, without being formally accused of any crime, the Dictator resolved to have them expelled from the country in September last. Application was at once made for *habeas corpus*, the period of martial law having ended August 31st, and the order was promptly granted by the Supreme Tribunal. The Dictator, however, issued a decree, dated back to August 25th, ordering their expulsion, and they were sent away on the *Thames* on September 26th. Among them was the well-known naturalist Dr. Wilhelm von Linden. On September 16th the Supreme Tribunal gave an unequivocal decision against the right of the executive to expel foreigners, or to hold them for expulsion, as the law gives him no such authority and the constitution expressly guarantees to foreigners all the rights of legal protection accorded to citizens.

—Another change in the uniform of the army has been decreed. One would think that quite money enough had been spent in this way.

—Another fugitive President has taken refuge in the United States. It is to be hoped that the American people will learn that something more than the name "republic" is required to make a free, self-governing nation.

—A Lisbon telegram of the 12th says that the court martial convened to try Capt. Augusto de Castilhos and some of his subordinates for their action toward the insurgents in this bay and at the River, has resulted in their acquittal by a unanimous vote.

—The lawyers are now busily engaged on the Mello Barreto case. It may be prophesied that when they have finished the case for all it is worth, the defendant will be absolved without a stain on his character. In the meantime the victims of the Companhia Geral swindle will have become seasoned to the losses which they have suffered.

—There was a row at Cascadura Sunday night between the police and a group of employes of the Central railway. A considerable force of policemen and soldiers was sent to the place, where peace was restored about midnight. Some of the brakenmen were arrested and were given the opportunity to reflect at their leisure in the police station.

—There is some gigantic lying in progress throughout the country in regard to the recent elections. One party is denouncing all kinds of fraud and violence, while the other is congratulating the country on the good order and scrupulous honesty which reigned. We give it up surely, but we are doubtful about the good order all the same.

—It is said that the authorities have not yet removed the powder left in one of the keepers' houses in the Jardim d'Acclamação. A large quantity of explosives are still stored, also, in the old museum building, and the old hulk *Panas*, on the bay, is believed to have powder on board. Any of these deposits might cause a terrible disaster and loss of life.

—The *Gazeta* has an envelope in its possession showing that a legibly-addressed letter from this city to São Paulo, which was dispatched November 11th last, reached its destination only on January 8th. On January 5th it was in Uberaba, Minas Geraes. It is curious to see how unworked the postoffice authorities remain under all these disclosures of negligence and incompetence.

—The daily rainstorms which have visited this city since the 1st inst. culminated on the evening of the 11th inst. in a genuine, old-fashioned down-pour. The streets on the hillsides became rivers, and those on the level were filled with water to such an extent that the shops and dwellings in many localities were flooded. Much damage was done to the streets by sand and to buildings by the floods.

—The city government has very properly closed the gambling dens, called "the tokery" and "sportsmen's banks," and also the ball-playing establishments, called *frontões*, except on Sundays. These places afford very little amusement beyond facilities for gambling, and their suspension will be a public benefit. In our opinion the jockey-clubs and race-courses might well receive a little gentle correction also.

—Considerable indignation has been aroused by the conduct of Capt. Cook of the *Sorata*, who on arrival in port on the morning of the 14th posted a notice advising passengers not to go ashore because of an epidemic of yellow fever in the city. The port officers interfered and had the notice taken down, but the chauvinists are considerably agitated over the matter still. The captain says that he was advised by the agents in Montevideo that yellow fever is raging in Rio de Janeiro.

—The *Journal do Brazil* has recently published particulars of the occupation of the tokery by Magé, first by the insurgents and then by the government forces. The first treated the residents considerably and paid for what they received. The latter, when they took possession of the place, committed every kind of excess. It is openly charged that the government commander, Col. Godolphim, gave the order "saque e degola" (sack and cut throats) when the national forces entered the town.

—If Brazil enters into another negotiation with Argentina for a sanitary convention between the two countries, she should insist on the abolition of the sanitary inspector for steamers. These men are generally young *medicos* who have had no medical experience and know very little of the responsible duties entrusted to them. Occasionally men are appointed who are not physicians. We have heard of one who was a pharmacist. These men are the cause of much trouble, and they will continue to be an obstacle as long as they are employed. A responsible, experienced visiting physician is all that the service requires.

—The *Journal do Commercio* of the 13th contains a letter from Dr. Serzedello in regard to the portfolio of finance in April 1893. He says that he and Custodio de Mello were strongly opposed to the continuation of the war against Rio Grande, and that Floriano consented to a proposal for the pacification of that state. Failing to keep his word in this matter and insisting upon the suspension of the *tribunal de contas*, against the advice of the minister, he left himself compelled to resign. He charges that the action of the President was due to an intrigue, one factor of which was the appointment of Dr. Felisbello Freire to a seat in the cabinet.

—An inquiry instituted by the *Journal do Commercio* has developed the following facts in regard to the suspected cholera cases sent over to Jurujuba, of which 30 which has been said in the columns of the *Pais* and by our hysterical sanitary board. From December 4th to January 5th 12 patients were sent to Jurujuba as suspected cholera cases, of whom 4 died. For the week ending January 12th 10 more patients were sent over, of whom 2 died. Not one of these cases was diagnosed as cholera morbus. On the 12th there were 6 patients in the lazaretto under treatment, of which one was in a bad state, one was in a hopeful condition and 4 were convalescent. This is the true history of our local cholera scare, of which alarmists have made so much capital.

—The new Brazilian consul at Buenos Aires, Sr. Manoel da Silva Pontes, left for that city on the 13th inst.

—The cruiser *Andrada* has been sent down to Ilha Grande to help maintain order among the ships in quarantine.

—The necessity of a sanitary convention with Brazil is now talked of in Buenos Aires. Possibly Dr. Ramos Mejia is now willing to make a few concessions.

—It is reported that Dr. Afonso Penna, ex-governor of Minas Geraes, has declined the appointment to the Supreme Federal Tribunal. We are inclined to believe that this act is a wise one, for he can be far more useful where he is than in the judiciary.

—Col. Godolphim, who is now stationed in São Paulo, denies the charges that Magé was pillaged by the force under his command. In proof of this, after defying the complainants to prove the contrary, he asserts that he found the monarchical flag at the public offices. If this is a proof, then the Central railway is rebellious, for it is still using stamps with the title "E. R. D. Pedro II" on them. Col. Godolphim should try again; perhaps he can find a better proof of his innocence next time.

—The *Pais* hears that one of the naval officers who abandoned the revolt because of Saldanha da Gama's manifesto of December 1893, and who has been imprisoned ever since, has been under treatment from the hospital, where he would be received with a brass band and fireworks when he left the revolt and returned to the fold. After a year's imprisonment he finds that the fate of the prodigal son has been reversed in these enlightened times, and he has probably gone back to the ranks of the discontented.

—According to the recently-published defence of Dr. Felisbello Freire, a conspiracy was on foot in April, 1893, headed by Senator Cunha Junior, the confidential adviser of Floriano Peixoto, to secure the re-election of the President for the next four years. As this is expressly prohibited by the constitution, Cunha Junior called on Dr. Felisbello to consult him about an amendment to the constitution. Dr. Felisbello says that he pointed out the impossibility of this, as such an amendment must be considered in two sessions of Congress and time only remained for one session before the presidential elections. He concluded, however, that the difficulty might be overcome by calling an extra session in January, 1894, at which the question could be resolved. Soon after giving this decision, Dr. Felisbello was appointed to a cabinet position, and Serzedello and Custodio resigned. These are historical points worth remembering.

### BIRTH.

At Bahia on the 4th January the wife of Frederick Benn, of a son.

### YELLOW FEVER.

The yellow fever epidemic of the past year was the cause of 4,701 deaths, the monthly totals being as follows:

January.....	368
February.....	1,335
March.....	1,924
April.....	651
May.....	275
June.....	101
July.....	14
August.....	12
September.....	3
October.....	6
November.....	6
December.....	6

The number of deaths at the Jurujuba hospital is not given. As many patients are sent there from this city, as well as from the port, its record should be given in connection with the above.

It is to be noted that the past year was a particularly bad one in many respects. The heat was very great during the summer, and had fevers of various descriptions raged. The Misericórdia reports that the mortality in March, 3,625, from all causes is the greatest on record, while the aggregate for the five months from January to May was nearly equal to the total for the whole of 1893. The crowded condition of the shipping and the exceptional situation in which the population was placed, owing to the revolt, are probably causes for much of this large mortality. It is not yet known how many lives were lost through the revolt.

### THE "TERCEIRA" DISASTER.

The terrible disaster of the 6th inst. is still the subject of anxious inquiry and the topic of general conversation. Although a police investigation has been in progress for many days past, the original cause of the fire is still unsettled, though it is generally believed that it originated in the unprotected woodwork surrounding the smoke-stack of the small engine used to run the electric lights. There are reasons for believing, also, that the electric light was not well mounted, the machinist employed for that purpose not being an experienced electrician.

The conduct of the passengers of the *Quinta* is also being allowed to fall into the background. Cases of this description does not appeal to popular prejudice, somehow, and no one cares to urge an investigation. Had a schoolboy been soundly flogged, the newspapers would have bristled with indignant denunciations, for flogging is one of the pet aversions of the public. An act of criminal cowardice, like the forcible prevention of the master of the *Quinta* from going to the rescue of the passengers of the *Tecora*, is quite another thing. It appeals to no prejudice, and the enormity of the act is really not understood.

The number of lives lost is still unknown. Over 70 bodies have been recovered thus far, but many persons are still missing and the search is still going on. Some of the bodies were found outside the harbor, having been carried out to sea by the tides. It is thought that some of the victims were carried down from the burning boat, but no diver has as yet been sent down to investigate. It is believed that the total loss of life can not be less than one hundred.

### BUSINESS NOTES

—The Royal Mail agency has been moved to 73, Rua 1º de Março.

—The Brazilian consulate at Cardiff is to be suppressed for want of an appropriation.

—The November receipts of rubber at Mandios amounted to 874,375 kilos.

—The Royal Insurance Co. has obtained permission to transact business in Santa Catharina and Paraná.

—A telegram from Uberaba on the 14th says that many thousands of cattle are passing that place for the pasture grounds of southern Minas.

—The terrible accident of the 6th to the ferry boat *Tecora* has been the means of resurrecting the scheme of building a bridge across the bay.

—The Pará state government has been authorized to call for tenders for a steamship service between the river ports of Mandios and Melitremam, with calls at Itacatiara and Perinatins.

—Trade is so bad in the north that the steamers running between Maranhão and Liverpool via Lisbon have recently been compelled to seek return cargoes at other Brazilian ports. It is said that this has never before occurred during the twenty years service of these steamers.

—An extraordinary meeting of the St. John del Rey Mining Co. was held in London on the 20th ult., at which it was resolved to increase the company's capital from £402,000 to £500,000, by the issue of £98,000 in 1 share. This capital includes £177,760 of convertible bonds, which may be converted into shares at the pleasure of the holders.

—There is evidently something wrong in Bahia. The Ger. lks. *Toroni*, the Nor. lks. *Zepheroides* and *Aleptus*, from Hamburg, and the Ger. lks. *Maria*, from Liverpool, have been denounced as having brought out large quantities of smuggled goods. It is said that their manifests have disappeared. There have been so many denunciations of this character lately, that we must believe either that Bahia is full of smugglers, or that some customs official is trying to make mischief.

—The Bahia municipal shop-keeping experiment is resulting in a costly failure, as we anticipated. The municipal council has recently argued with the butchers to sell jerked beef (*carne seca*) at 880 rs. a kilo. The *Gazeta de Notícias* says that the municipality lost about 100,000\$ during the 42 days it diminished prices. If the municipality, paying no rents and no taxes, loses money on certain prices, how can it expect business men to do better?

—A somewhat dangerous complication is arising in the discharge of cattle. Generally the steamers bringing live stock from the River are detained at Ilha Grande from three to nine days, and with the result that it sometimes occurs that from seven to ten thousand head of cattle are accumulated in the quarantine enclosure. This is not certainly far from favorable to the healthfulness of that place. Surely something might be done to land the cattle at Sepetiba.

### FINANCIAL NOTES

—At Maranhão the customs receipts in November amounted to 282,326\$284.

—The export tax on coffee yielded 133,192\$311 for the state of Espírito Santo last month.

—The November receipts of the Pará custom-house were 1,126,731\$375, and of the state *recedoria* 1,128,104\$903.

—The Espírito Santo budget for this year estimates the receipts to 3,311,000\$, and the expenditures at 3,204,368\$770.

—The President has declined to accept the resignation of Drs. Rangel Pestana, Fernando Lobo and Castello Branco, the government directors of the Banco da Republica.

—The municipal council of Nova Friburgo has resolved to borrow 800,000\$ for a system of water works. The taxpayer should have something to say about these schemes, for it means an immense load of indebtedness for the Brazilian people in the near future.

—The *Journal do Commercio* of the 10th says that although Prefect Valladares borrowed 5,000,000\$ only a few days ago, barely one-fifth of that sum now exists in the municipal treasury. The rate at which money is being squandered in this city will soon bring us into a state of indebtedness serious enough to alarm even the jobbers who are now enriching themselves at our expense.

—The December receipts of the Pernambuco custom-house amounted to 1,699,028\$664, against 1,644,592\$539 in the same month of 1893. The state treasury receipts in the same month were 516,987\$362 in 1894, against 621,077\$543 in 1893. The total receipts for the year were:

	custom-house	state treasury.
1894.....	19,515,866\$945	5,251,497\$218
1893.....	18,338,617\$538	4,914,799\$223

Increase..... 1,176,995\$387 336,708\$115

—The London correspondent of the *Journal do Commercio* telegraphs as follows:

—London, 5th January, 7 p. m.—I am informed that the Messrs. Rothschilds are completing the arrangements necessary for the emission of 2,000,000 in national Brazilian treasury bills, an operation identical to what they made with the same treasury in 1892. I am told that these bills will be emitted of a type and interest rate very advantageous to Brazil.

The notice has occasioned a lively sensation here that the government had spent the sum of £35,000,000 in the repression of the recent revolt, and the general opinion in South American circles is that there has been an enormous waste, not justified by the circumstances.

On the following day the minister of finance received the following telegram:

—London, 6th January.—We have great pleasure in communicating to your excellency that we have placed all the Treasury bills in accordance with the instructions received. The success of this great operation has produced an excellent influence on Brazilian funds. Those of 4 per cent. have gone up to 76½ and the Western of Minas to 80½.





List of sailing vessels at anchor in the bay of Rio de Janeiro 12th January, 1895.

Table with columns: NAME, Tons, Master, Entered, From, Consignees, Destinations. Lists various ships from American, Argentine, Austrian, British, Danish, German, Italian, Norwegian, Portuguese, and Swedish categories.

N. B. The letter D on the margin indicates that the ship has been despatched.

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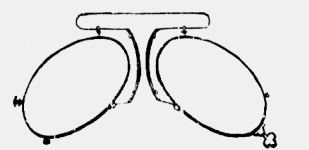
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Missing Friends. Information wanted at the British Consulate General, No. 8, Travessa D. Manoel, as to death or whereabouts of the following:

EDWARD LEAY, 77 years of age; has resided 35 years in Brazil. WILLIAM DAVIS, deserted on the 26th September 1890, at Rio de Janeiro, from banque Hectanooga. CAMERON MACINTOSH, 25 years of age; last heard of on board of the British ship Tennant Court.

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**TABLE OF DEPARTURES,**

1895

Date	Steamer	Destination
1895		
Jan. 16	Danube...	Montevideo and Buenos Aires.
" 17	Clyde...	Bahia, Pernambuco, Lisbon, Vigo, Southampton and Antwerp.
" 20	Fagus...	Santos.

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Coleridge* (Bahia and Pernambuco).....	3rd	January
Dalton.....	11th	"
Strabo.....	19th	"
Mozart.....	26th	"
Hevelius (Bahia and Pernambuco).....	2nd	February

\*Receives 1st and 3rd class passengers.

*For New Orleans:*

Nasmyth.....	9th	January
A steamer.....	30th	"

*For Valparaiso, Callao and West-Coast Ports:*

Milton.....	12th	January
Chaucer.....	31st	"

*For Liverpool:*

Phidias.....	8th	January
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*For Antwerp & Liverpool:*

King Cwallon.....	16th	January
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*Intended sailings from Santos for New York:*

Others.....	10th	January
Bessel (Victoria).....	17th	"
Flaxman.....	24th	"
Herschel.....	31st	"

*For New Orleans:*

Nasmyth.....	5th	January
A steamer.....	23th	"

*Intended sailings from Victoria for New York:*

Handel.....	5th	January
Bessel.....	26th	"

Other steamers calling at Victoria if sufficient inducement offers.

For further information apply in Santos to

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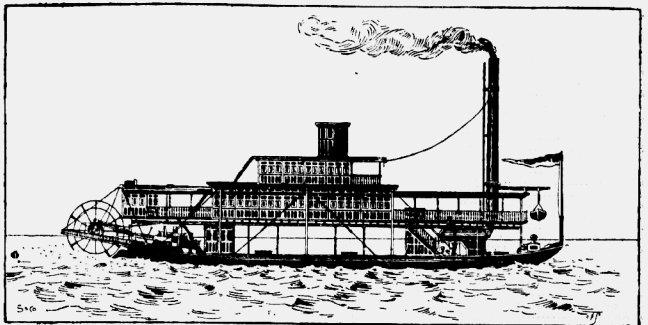
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