





**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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RIO DE JANEIRO, FEBRUARY 19th, 1895.

There seems to be a well-founded belief current that the government is preparing for the issue of a large internal loan within a week or two. No official announcement has yet been made, but the recent stiffening in exchange and the customary *consta* in the *Journal do Commercio* of this morning are strong confirmatory proofs that the rumor has a substantial foundation. It is said that the loan will be for one hundred thousand contos, one half of which will be devoted to the immediate redemption of outstanding currency. In our opinion, the minister would do the right thing in issuing such a loan, and for such a purpose. If the loan is a success, as it should be, it will go far to strengthen Brazilian credit abroad, and will do much to insure the success of the approaching foreign loan. And the redemption of so large a sum of currency as Rs. 50,000,000\$ will certainly cause a decided improvement in exchange. The minister is on the right road, and we wish him every success. If now the President will second his financial policy by stopping the war in Rio Grande, and thus stop the enormous military expenditure in that state, we may feel sure that the country will at once enter upon a new era of prosperity. The people want peace, security and an opportunity to develop their industries. They require lower taxes, and a better distributed system of taxation. All these can easily be secured by an act of justice toward the Rio Grande federalists, and by the final pacification of that state.

The conflicts which are constantly occurring between the military and police forces throughout the whole country, can be averted in only one way — by the complete withdrawal of the military garrisons from the cities and their complete subjection to civil jurisdiction and process when outside military reservations. This implies the abolition of every privilege which now enables a military man to defy the civil authorities and to escape responsibility for infractions of the law. It also implies the abolition of the privileges now enjoyed by military officers of making arrests, interfering with the police in the performance of their duties, and of being answerable to the military authorities alone for breaches of law and order. It implies that in times of peace there shall be but one force for the maintenance of order—the police force; one law for the government of the country — the civil law; and one organized body for the administration of justice and the repression of crime—the civil courts of justice. It implies one common law for all, one source of justice, and one method of punishment. It implies that the soldier who stabs a man in the street will be tried and punished exactly as though he were a civilian. It implies that the civil forces of the nation shall be exalted and strengthened, and that the civil law shall be recognized as supreme at all times and under all circumstances except in times of war or insurrection. Under existing conditions there is no harmony between the two forces, and good order is simply impossible. The military element considers itself privileged, and, having little to do, amuses itself by creating disorder. The police force being handicapped by the special privileges conferred upon military men, and being discredited and hampered

in many other ways, is driven into a state of rivalry, and seeks satisfaction through petty retaliations. These conflicts between the two forces are not of yesterday's origin; they have existed ever since the two forces were placed in so anomalous a position. The remedy, in our opinion, is that of confining each force to its regular duties, and allowing no outside interference with its work. The maintenance of order in our streets is essentially a police duty, and the police should therefore be amply equipped for that service. If a soldier is drunk and disorderly in the street, he should be subject to arrest and punishment the same as a civilian. If the military authorities will not concede this much to the police authorities, then the soldiers should be kept out of the streets, or removed from the city. There can not be two standards of order — restriction for the civilian and licence for the soldier. There has been too much of the latter already, and it is time that a better and more reasonable system should be tried.

We should like to call the attention of the government to the necessity of an explicit declaration as to the period, conditions and objects of the quarantine enforced at Ilha Grande. We may have overlooked it, but we have no remembrance of any decree closing Brazilian ports against Argentine arrivals. Rigorous quarantine has been decreed, of course; but even here there seems to be no definite limit as to time and conditions. If the period is eight or ten days, then the quarantine officials do not observe the regulation, for they have kept steamers there much longer than that. Fifteen days had passed before the first case of illness appeared on the *Olympo*. The *Zwickendam* was kept in quarantine 37 days before permission was given for her departure. And the mail steamers from the south have been refused permission to enter this or any Brazilian port, even after completing the stipulated eight or ten days quarantine. This is not only grossly unjust, but it is unreasonable and illegal. If a steamer complies with the quarantine regulations, remaining at anchor and under sanitary inspection for the stipulated number of days, and no case of infectious disease appears during that period, she is legally entitled to all the rights and privileges accorded to other steamers under the laws of the country. If the health officer of the port is empowered to set aside these rights and privileges at pleasure, then we should like to know his authority for doing so. If he is acting legally, then there must be some law with respect to such cases, and this law should clearly define his powers and limitations. It could not have been intended, surely, that the health inspector is empowered to make his own laws and regulations, to enforce whatever degree and description of quarantine he may please, to close the port against certain steamers and hold it open for others, and to do just whatever he pleases with the property and lives of those who seek admission to this port. Such authority renders him a dictator, irresponsible for his trespasses upon the rights of others and for the consequences of his mistakes. It is inconceivable that any civilized people would delegate such powers to one individual, or even to a government. The essence of justice is its impartiality, and there can be no impartiality in the arbitrary will of one man. As the case now stands, there is nothing whatever in our quarantine requirements that can be termed reasonable and impartial. We are enforcing quarantine to prevent the admission of a disease which, according to the health authorities, already exists here. We have a quarantine station, but its use is restricted to the passengers of certain steamers. We have a large quarantine hospital, but admission to it is denied to those suspected of having an infectious disease. We have quarantine doctors, but they refuse to visit the sick, or to go on board vessels reporting suspicious cases. We buy a vessel to serve as a floating lazaretto at Ilha Grande and then neglect to send it down there. We encourage the importation of cattle from Argentina and then abandon them in quarantine, to die of hunger and thirst, and to poison the ship so that their unfortunate attendants fall ill and die. And we are doing all this with the vague idea that it is a justifiable means of protecting ourselves! The authorities do not seem

to see that their conduct is illogical, inhuman, unscientific, unjust and futile. The so-called cholera is already here, and no quarantine restriction will now serve to keep it out. It has been proved over and over again that quarantines will not insure us against the admission of an infectious disease. And it is now the opinion of the best scientific authorities that local sanitary measures and the isolation of patients are better than quarantine barriers to check the progress of an infectious disease. Our health authorities ignore all this, however, and continue the barbarous custom of treating the plague-stricken as criminals—denying them relief and shooting them if they seek to evade their inhuman restrictions. The measure of a country's civilization may be gauged, perhaps, by its quarantines, for in these are concentrated all the selfishness, cruelty and cowardice of which men are capable. And as long as the institution affords a feeling of security, no one will say a word against it!

It is difficult at this distance to determine how much of truth there is in the news from the south regarding the preparations for a war between Chili and Argentina. That a war is impending, no one will dispute; and that preparations for it are in progress on both sides is known to all. Chili recently ordered in Europe a new ironclad and a large addition to her armament; and then Argentina followed suit with an order for a hundred thousand Mausers, several batteries of Krupp guns and, more recently, another ironclad. Both countries are steadily increasing their armaments, and both are seriously embarrassed to cover the expense. Like some of their European contemporaries, they are ruining themselves in order to maintain a certain unnecessary military importance among nations. They are ambitious to own costly battle ships and to maintain large standing armies, two of the most costly luxuries in which a nation can indulge. When a country tries to create an effective navy, there is no end to the expense, for their maintenance is not only very expensive, but the passion for building new vessels is simply overmastering. An eloquent illustration of this is that of poor, overtaxed Italy—a country whose navy and army have brought it to the very verge of bankruptcy. Although we have no triple alliances here in South America, nor Eastern questions, nor partitions of a continent between marauding nations, nor routes to India, nor ancient hatreds and rivalries, some of our small powers think that they should imitate the countries which have. And so they are creating expensive military establishments, and are seeking opportunities to use them. For many years monarchical Brazil was the only one among these countries, leaving the Guyana colonies out of consideration, which enjoyed any degree of peace and order, but their wars were generally of a revolutionary character, and not for foreign conquest. The brilliant success of Chili in her war with Peru, however, seems to have aroused a new spirit in our midst. Since that event, Chili has steadily increased her military strength, and has allowed it to be understood that she means to try her hand on Argentina at no distant day. There has been periodical exchanges of compliments, of course, and we are occasionally treated to a display of fraternal admiration which confounds all our elaborate theories in regard to the impending struggle—but it is nothing but an admirable piece of acting. They never embrace without locating the fifth rib on the left side. And then when the demonstration is over, they both continue their preparations for war and their denunciations of each other's treachery and bad faith. Lately several trifling incidents connected with the boundary surveys have aroused much bad feeling and general alarm, and the readiness with which both speak of war over the most trivial differences shows how imminent the danger really is. Were the Chilians and Argentines of a calculating, phlegmatic race, like the Anglo-Saxons, they would find no excuse whatever for war in these boundary disputes, unless one of them had determined on the conquest of the other. But they are excitable, suspicious, jealous, and vindictive, and it may be that the most insignificant of causes will be the

one which will precipitate war between them. The recent reports of the detection of Chilian topographical engineers in the passes of the Andes, and even far within the limits of Argentina, is an indication of the state of feeling which now exists between the two countries. The report, also, that Chili had taken military possession of a piece of territory on the borders of Bolivia and Argentina, and which is claimed by the former, is another indication of the sensitiveness which prevails. It is improbable that this situation can be prolonged much further, for there must be either a cordial restoration of confidence between them, which is contrary to all reasonable expectation, or there must be an appeal to arms. And the indications are that the latter alternative is not far distant in the future.

In case of war between Argentina and Chili, what course will Brazil pursue. It will be a quarrel in which this country can have no special interest, consequently there will be no occasion for interference. The true policy for Brazil will be that of strict neutrality, notwithstanding the fact that Brazilian interests will be profoundly affected by the war, and that an attempt to blockade the Argentine coast will raise many delicate diplomatic questions between the belligerents and the neighboring states of Uruguay and Brazil. Such a war will simply complicate the situation in Brazil, deeply because we are becoming so dependent upon Argentina for flour, beef, maize and hay. A blockade of the Argentine coast would compel us to look elsewhere for foodstuffs, and would probably increase the costs of living very materially for us. Should the Rio Grande struggle be settled, that state would benefit greatly, as a blockade would drive much Argentine trade through Uruguay and Rio Grande. The true policy for this country to pursue, then, is to anticipate the struggle and to be prepared for it. This Rio Grande quarrel should be settled, and the *emigrés* should be recalled to their estancias and encouraged to develop stock-raising. The railway from Porto Alegre to Uruguayana should be hurried to completion, for it would then be needed. And the raising of cattle, alfalfa, maize and other products should be encouraged to the fullest extent in every district suitable for them. Coffee and sugar may be left to take care of themselves; what the country needs is something in the line of foodstuffs which will render it less dependent upon its trade with other countries.

**INHUMANITY IN BRAZIL.**

S. S. *Olympo*, Buenos Aires, Outer Roads, 28th January.

To the Editor of the *Times of Argentina*.

Dear Sir—Kindly allow me a little space in your valuable paper to expose a piece of the grossest cruelty that was ever perpetrated either on man or beast, and which is now being done in the Brazils, namely, the placing in quarantine of large steamers having cattle on board in all holds and allowing them no connection with the shore whatever, even though cattle die for the want of water and hay.

Two steamers, more especially, signalled continually for food for the cattle, but no notice was taken, nor were the ships allowed to leave the port (Ilha Grande).

For ourselves we asked to be allowed to proceed to Rio to fill our tanks with fresh water, when we were informed we must stay where we were. To add to this indignity, upon our requesting advice as to disposal of the cattle, which were dying hourly, we were told to put them in the furnaces and burn them, they being putrid.

Now, sir, what can be the idea of destroying property as these officials persist in doing? There is scarcely a steamer in the same district which has not lost 60 or 70 cattle owing to the heat, or from want of hay and water.

One might well imagine the governments of Brazil and Argentina were working off some petty spite in a cheap way to themselves, but in an expensive and cruel manner for others. When Brazil can boast of a healthy climate such as Argentina possesses, then will be the time for the former to preach and practice quarantine.

So much for the cattle—now for the sequel. The effect on the crews of this brutal treatment (called quarantine) was cholera. After lying 7 or 8 days under a tropical sun, with filth, stench, dead and dying cattle on board, the dreadful epidemic breaks out. In less than four days seven men died and five more were taken ill on our ship. Although we lay at a quarantine station we could get no help from the shore, the only doctor there refusing to come on board and remaining on a steam-launch at a safe distance for himself from our ship, from whence he made a pretence of prescribing for patients he could not see. It was only after six men had died and several more had been taken ill that he was prevailed upon to risk his precious life by coming on board. When politely asked to take the sick men on shore to the hospital he at once refused.







List of sailing vessels at anchor in the bay of Rio de Janeiro 18th February, 1895.

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

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

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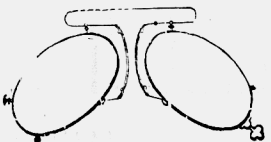
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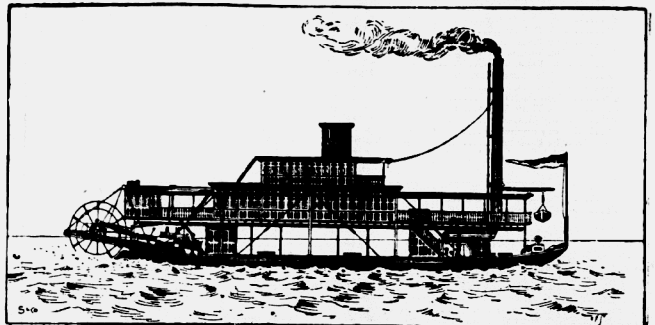
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