

THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 2ND, 1895.

NUMBER 14

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see page 7.

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BONDIN, ANTONIO GABRIEL, do.

ANTONIO FRANCISCO, do. THERESA: formerly residing at Rua Passo da Patria, Niteroi, and S. Vicente de Paula, Estado do Rio de Janeiro.

SCULLY, JEREMIAH; who left Ballycough, Co. Cork, in 1846 or 1847.

LOW, JAMES; deserted from British ship *Whinlatter* October 1894.

TUCKERSON, or THORIKERSON, WILLIAM, formerly mate of the *Helle May*, which left Rio in March, 1894.

MAJORS, JOHN STANLEY; of the Bahamas Islands; for adjustment of legacy

Rio de Janeiro, 20th February 1895.

C. F. Ancell,

Acting British Consul General.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—The Argentine government has imposed 8 days quarantine against Uruguay, and the latter is said to have augmented the quarantine against Buenos Aires to 12 days. And so the merry dance goes on!

—The vital statistics for February in Montevideo show 498 births (70 illegitimate), 112 marriages and 305 deaths. The passenger arrivals numbered 1,490 and the departures 1,266. The population of the city was estimated at 242,401.

—Telegrams from Montevideo of the 28th report a torrential rain in that city on that date, the heaviest ever known. Some of the streets and suburbs were completely inundated, some lives were lost and an immense amount of damage was done.

—Yesterday's telegrams from Montevideo state that the representatives of steamship lines are about to petition the Uruguayan government for the abolition of quarantine against Buenos Aires. If the government refuses they will recommend the suspension of all passenger and freight traffic with Montevideo. "Bravo! This is just as it should be! We do not see why the commercial world should submit tamely to these abuses!"

—The proposal of the Argentine health authorities to abolish quarantine has caused no little disgust and dismay to the syndicate who thought they had discovered in the Flores Island lazaret and its numerous concomitant abuses, a new gold mine by which they could fill their pockets at the expense of travellers and of the commercial and shipping interests of the republic. If the Argentine example is followed, as it will have to be, their gold mine will evaporate and they will have to turn their delicate attentions elsewhere.— *Montevideo Times*, March 23.

—There is no hiding the fact that there is a great deal of cholera about the north of this province and up in Santa Fé, though we are comparatively clear in Buenos Aires owing to our better supply of water. Uruguay notwithstanding all their quarantine precautions has been if one is to believe reports, attacked more severely than anywhere, yet she will neither admit the fact or relax her stringent regulations for boats coming from what she is pleased to term an affected country. Now that the back of the summer is broken cholera ought to begin to diminish, it quite possible it may reappear with the warm weather next year, in the meantime people in the camp will do well to study the subject and lay in a few necessary things with which to treat the disease on its first appearance and thereby save a great deal of anxiety and suffering.— *Buenos Aires Sport and Pastime*, March 20.

THE RIO NEWS

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RIO DE JANEIRO, APRIL 2nd, 1895.

WHY the Brazilian government should refuse to correct the abuses at Ilha Grande, we can not say. The President and his cabinet are not men who would knowingly insist upon the enforcement of regulations which cause unnecessary risk and prejudice, and yet the plain truth of it is that this is just exactly what they are doing. Refusing to give heed to the scores of complaints which have been made against the treatment received at Ilha Grande, and accepting the explanations given by the officials in charge, whose bad faith and incompetency are notorious, the government makes itself clearly responsible for all that has happened and may happen at Ilha Grande in the name of quarantine. It is largely a question of good will. If the authorities refuse to remedy the abuses denounced, and to ameliorate the rigor of the conditions imposed, then we must presume that they are in favor of treating quarantined men like dangerous criminals, and that they approve the neglect and indifference openly shown by their subordinates. There is no other conclusion possible. In January last, when there were so many sick men among the crews in quarantine and when the director of the lazaretto refused them the use of his hospital, the government announced that a vessel had been purchased for a floating lazaretto, and that it would be sent down to Ilha Grande at once. Up to the present moment, about three months later, the said vessel has not been sent there, nor is there any evidence that such a purchase has ever been made. What are we to infer from this? Was this announcement made with a deliberate intent to deceive? Was the government making a joke of life and death, deliberately playing with men imprisoned in charnel ships? Or was it another example of official incapacity and irresponsibility, announcing a transaction before it was concluded? Having made such a promise, the government is morally bound to carry it into execution. Has it made one single effort to do so? No! It has simply turned its back on its agreement, as it has done so many times before, and has left the poor devils to their fate! It knows that its director and doctor, through sheer cowardice, have refused to do their duty by the ships in quarantine, but it has neither removed them, nor reprimanded them. It knows, also, that its inspector-general in this port has been active only in covering up the faults of his subordinates, and that he has failed to organize the service under his oversight in accordance with the dictates of justice and humanity, and it knows that the restrictions imposed here and all along the coast are puerile and absurd—all this it knows, and yet it continues to support the man who is responsible for it! This fixes the responsibility. The government may be ever so intelligent, humane and well meaning, but if it supports and encourages servants who are

the opposite of all this, it must accept the credit for that also. Many a life has been lost at Ilha Grande which could have been saved with medical aid and with proper hospital accommodations; whose fault is it that these were not furnished? And many a pecuniary loss could have been averted by the reasonable and intelligent treatment of the ships seeking this port; upon whom must the responsibility rest for this? The government has permitted its subordinates to jump at conclusions, to declare unvisited ships infected, to declare unseen cases of sickness as cholera, and to impose quarantine rigors on them on such conclusions alone! There is not one reported case of a real death from cholera at Ilha Grande—a case treated by a medical man, followed by the necessary certificate of the cause of death and the autopsy which should have been made. The doctor there can not advance a particle of evidence, which would be accepted by reputable physicians as conclusive, to prove that the deaths occurring there were from cholera. To save his own precious life, he avoided going on board; and then to save his reputation he extended the period of quarantine, thus risking more lives and causing more loss to owners and shippers. And for all this the government tacitly assumes responsibility. So be it. We can only call the attention of ship-owners and merchants and all humane men at home to the necessity of losing no more time over this question of quarantine. It is needful that some international agreement should be adopted to control a matter which is governed more by caprice than by judgment, and which concerns the lives and fortunes of men of all nationalities. The ocean is a public highway, and it is necessary that it should not be encompassed by hostile and murderous restrictions. At the present moment the eastern coast of South America is a labyrinth of unintelligible, unnecessary, absurd, vexatious, and prejudicial quarantines, imposed here to please the ignorant conceit of an out-of-date practitioner, there to satisfy the greed of a ring of hungry purveyors, and elsewhere merely as reprisals and for the love of exercising arbitrary authority. We doubt if there is one single medical man of recognized professional skill, experience and reputation in the whole quarantine service of this coast—one single man who would consider his professional honor and reputation at stake in a decision which might send a poor fellow to the lazaretto and a ship into quarantine. It is time that these abuses were ended! And it is time that the quarantine purveyor's hand should be taken from the throat of commerce. As we have before urged, it is time that the imposition of quarantine should be governed by international regulations, that each nation should be made responsible for all losses and damages, and that the victims should be relieved from all taxes and expenses connected with their involuntary imprisonment. No better time for the initiation of such an agreement could be expected, for the whole coast is armed with quarantine restrictions and the institution can now be seen at its worst.

THE WIDOWS' FRIEND.

"A plague split you (quoth he) for an overgrown sloven!"
Swift.

To the Editor of the RIO NEWS:

Dear Sir,—During, or about the month of October last year, a number of gentlemen in Santos applied, (through the writer), to the "Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States" for life policies, of various amounts, duly depositing the required first premiums. It is only now, in the middle of March, say four and a half to five months after the dates of these applications, that the chiefs of the Equitable society in New York have discovered that they cannot accept them; not because of any physical disability on the part of the sturdy and robust applicants, but by reason of the danger that one or other of them may die of yellow-fever; cases of that malady having, it is understood, lately appeared in Santos city. The applicants having waited this long time—during which neither they, nor I, nor anybody else can say, for certain, whether they were covered by insurance or not, are at last to have their money returned to them, without interest, in accordance with the immutable laws of the Equitable institution aforesaid. Now, sir, it is not with any futile idea of complaining on their behalf that I am trespassing on your kindness on this occasion. The gentlemen here referred to are business men, well able to take care of their own interests. But I respectfully beg leave to offer a few remarks by way of comment and suggestion.

I would call attention to the fact that the E. L. A. S. of the U. S. has adopted as its badge a very striking and singular work of art, which is undoubtedly intended to be of strongly hyperbolic significance. This badge is elaborately engraved at the head of each policy, and freely dothed over most of the society's multitudinous documents and advertisements. It consists of the figure of a nondescript individual in "negligé" costume, holding something resembling an inverted meat-dish over the head of a plump young person—presumably a widow—in whose evening dress up to date, and with a remarkably fine baby in her arms. On the widow's side of the thing are a broken column and a flash of lightning; representing, no doubt, the sole assets bequeathed to her by her late lamented, but impecunious husband. On the opposite side, under the nondescript personage's lee, so to speak, is a dissipated-looking eagle, with its claws firmly fixed into a large bag of dollars, while the background contains an Egyptian pyramid, probably also full of dollars belonging to the Equitable society, and placed there as a reminder that the whole is in the nature of "an allegory on the banks of the Nile." This, then, is the Equitable society's escutcheon; and, if it mean anything, it means that the society of that name sets itself up as the protector and champion of the widowed and fatherless. The society advertising itself in this character possesses to-day, according to its own clamorous assertions, a capital of a hundred and so many millions of dollars, a surplus of so many tens of millions of dollars and an active business of so many hundreds of millions of dollars. How many millions of dollars the society has made in, under its "three years' rule from poor fellows who have taken out policies on which, after a short time they have found themselves unable to continue paying the premium, is not stated. But, any way, these last unlucky individuals have nothing after all, to "make a song about!" They put their sovereign "into the slot" every year, and ought to be very grateful to think that at the end of the third year the Equitable "figure will root," and politely hand them out two penny-worth of gingerbread for their pains. But, sir, it is matter of common knowledge that the protection of widows and orphans, especially the former, far from being a lucrative business, is, on the contrary, notoriously a very expensive one indeed; and it is evident the Equitable society thinks so, too, in view of the reason which presents itself extending any protection whatever to widows and orphans in Santos. I therefore venture to protest, however vainly, against the ridiculous piece of hyperbolic humbug contained in its emblematic device before described. Why, in the name of common decency, cannot this society, this great bloated, bragging product of financial scheming and quack advertising and buffoonery, drop its philanthropic sham, and plainly say itself off for what it is, viz., a one-eyed, money-mongering concern, willing to offer certain hypothetical and unguaranteed advantages to those whose pecuniary support is necessary to its operations—which travels about Brazil, picking up safe business in healthy localities for the sake of what it can make out of it, and which has no more fancy for protecting widows than I have! In the meantime, however, it is tolerably certain that the patient Santos applicants for policies of October, 1894, are to have their money honestly returned to them in this merry month of March, 1895. Well, that is something. As the Equitable Life Assurance Society is fond of parables, I will relate one I had from an American friend which seems to me to have some bearing on the case now under consideration. A preacher held forth at a camp meeting to an assemblage of New Englanders. Having concluded his discourse, he passed his hat round for contributions, according to the usual custom. The hat returned empty. It was, however, the invariable rule to give thanks after every "collection," and this preacher was no exception. "I thank Thee," he said, "that I have received back my hat from this congregation!" Let the Santos insurers be thankful likewise. I remain, dear Sir,
Your old friend and admirer,
NICODEMUS DEWDROP.

March 20th, 1895.

THE COFFEE TAX QUESTION.

Palace of the President of the State of Minas Geraes, March 19th, 1895.
To His Excellency the President of the State of Rio de Janeiro.
The object of the government of Minas in making the agreement of the 6th inst. with that of your state was to avoid the collision that was imminent in regard to the execution of decree No. 790, of November 6, 1894, of the state of Minas Geraes, requiring the presentation of 11% tax receipts for the shipment of coffee and of decree No. 167, of the 23rd of last January, of the state of Rio de Janeiro, dispensing with this formality and thus permitting the free shipment of coffee, embracing not only that produced in the state of Rio de Janeiro but also that produced in Minas and in the other two states whose coffee is shipped from the port of Rio de Janeiro. In thus acting the government of this state gave fresh proofs of the solicitude with which it seeks to maintain friendly relations with other state governments and thus contributing to the thorough accomplishment of the purposes for which the federative system is intended. It is not the intention, however, of the government of Minas to maintain the present system of collecting the coffee-tax without modifications tending to render it less burdensome to the producing classes, as is indicated in Art. 3 of the said agreement. The agriculturists of all the producing states justly complain of this system of collecting the tax and the redress which they demand for their grievances should be granted by the state govern-

ments, provided no loss or injury thereby results to the state treasuries or fiscal service, especially since at the present time our agricultural interests are passing through a crisis whose consequences will be fatal if the governments of these states do not adopt the proper measures for protecting them. There is no doubt that, if producing states do not deem it expedient to change entirely the present system, there are many ways in which, without detriment to the fiscal interests of those states the burdensome effects of that system may be mitigated—effects against which the injured class has very properly protested, there being no reason why governments should fail to comply with the demands of agriculturists, on whom the state budgets immediately and directly depend and who are the principal tax-payers, unless those governments desire, as cannot be the case, to separate themselves completely from the source from which they derive their existence. Consequently a speedy agreement between the four producing states is indispensable for the purpose of regulating the collection of the tax in a uniform manner advantageous both to the fiscal interests of those states and to the agricultural interests of the country. With this object my government has addressed a communication to those of São Paulo and Espírito Santo calling their attention to this subject and asking them to send representatives to the federal capital for the purpose of adopting some definite measure in conjunction with your government and that of Minas in regard to a question which is of such far-reaching importance to us all. I trust, then, that you will not refuse to contribute to the solution of this problem, in which the agriculturists of your state are so deeply interested, when, by so doing, you will render an inestimable service to other states whose future depends thereon. If, as I hope, you accept this invitation, I shall have occasion to notify you, with the concurrence of the other states, of the day fixed for the meeting of your representatives at the federal capital. I have the honor of renewing to you the assurances of my very high esteem.
Health and fraternity.
Christinn Jacques Bias Fortes.
Palace of the President of the State of Minas Geraes, March 15th, 1895.
To His Excellency the President of the State of S. Paulo.
In view of the difficulties that have arisen for coffee-producing states in the shipment of the staple from the port of Rio de Janeiro in consequence of the system of free exportation attempted and defended by the state of Rio de Janeiro, and seriously threatening their principal source of revenue, it is urgently necessary that the governments thereby injured shall, by common accord, unite in some plan which, respecting the principle of state autonomy, may correspond to the fiscal interests of the said governments harmonizing them at the same time with the legitimate interests and reasonable expectations of their agricultural classes, which cannot be ignored without aiming a blow at the very foundation of our system of government, in which the will of the people is an indispensable element of information and strength. Informed as you are, by means of the many articles which have recently been published in the daily press of the federal capital, of the state of the question and of the temporary solution at which my government and that of the state of Rio de Janeiro have succeeded in arriving, you will comprehend that the difficulty, far from being settled, has been merely postponed and that the question will be reopened, perhaps in an aggravated form, after the exhaustion of the stock of 11% tax-receipts which accumulated in the hands of commission merchants and other representatives of the producers during the period in which the market was cleared of the old 4% *quias* issued in conformity with the former system of collecting the tax on the border of the two states. The government of the state of Rio de Janeiro being resolved, as it does not refuse to confess, to return in that contingency to its fixed idea of permitting the free shipment of its coffee, it is easy to see that, since the coffee of Minas, that of the northern part of your state and that of the south of Espírito Santo is shipped from the same port, irreparable injury will thereby be caused to the revenue of the states of Minas Geraes, S. Paulo and Espírito Santo, unless the respective governments adopt the same system of collecting the tax on coffee. And in proof of this assertion it is only necessary to mention the fact that the revenue office of the state of Rio de Janeiro, at the federal capital, gave permission in advance for the free shipment of an immense quantity of coffee, evidently greater than the whole stock in that market, without asking for any proof of the original of the product, when in the latter part of last month it attempted to initiate its system of free exportation, and what must not be overlooked is the fact that, even were the quantity for which free exportation was thus permitted barely equal to the stock in the market, that stock is not composed solely of coffee produced in the state of Rio de Janeiro, but also includes coffee from your state, from mine and from Espírito Santo. The adoption of that system, however, would only attend to the fiscal interests of the states, dispossessing the planters in their homes and injuring their legitimate interests made known in the aforesaid articles. And thus the governments of those states would show themselves deaf to the complaints of the tax-payers who most contribute to their respective exchequers. The alleged advantage of the system of free exportation does in fact really exist, but for the sole benefit of sackers and exporters and not for that of the producers who are entitled to the protection of the state. In the first place it is known that our coffee planters, for reasons which it is not pertinent to discuss at the present moment, have not yet placed themselves in such a position as to be able to control the market and are consequently obliged to accept, willingly or unwillingly, the purchaser's terms; in the second place they are obliged to have recourse to the commission merchant who

advances them money for paying the tax, and the value of the respective tax-receipt (conhecimento ou guia) is nearly always sacrificed in the latter's reasonable anxiety to recover the amount which he had advanced.

Between these two terms of the problem the producer always loses, for neither does the exporter pay a higher price for the coffee which he buys, nor can the commission agent, under the pressure of his anxiety to recover his money, guarantee to the producer the benefit of the full value of the tax-receipt.

The interest of the commission merchant is not to hold out in his demand for the full value of this receipt, but to recover as speedily as possible the sum advanced. If he fails to obtain for the tax-receipt its full value, he compensates himself by reducing the amount of the account sales.

It would be hazardous to attempt to sustain the value of an article by exempting it from duty in a market controlled by the purchaser, especially since the latter has no interest (see meeting of exporters at Rio de Janeiro custom house) that he will not assume an obligation of which he has been relieved by the direct payment of the tax by the producer.

Under these circumstances, if the speculation in old 4% tax-receipts deprived the producer of half the amount of their value, what will not be the latter's loss through the speculation in receipts that represent not 4% but 11% of the official value of the article taxed?

It was under the pressure of these arguments that my government, influenced by the impossibility of effecting a better arrangement, acceded to the temporary agreement with the government of the state of Rio de Janeiro, an account of which has been published in the press of other states, thus gaining time to solicit the intervention of other governments interested, like yours, in this question.

It was urgently necessary to prevent the immediate execution of the decree of the government of the state of Rio de Janeiro for the free shipment of coffee, which, as I have said, threatened with irreparable loss not only the revenues of other states that produce this precious staple but also the legitimate interests of the tax-payers which it is the duty of those states to protect.

On the other hand it is evident that in a business of this nature the co-existence of different systems, each state adopting that which it thinks best, is altogether impracticable, for such diversity in the system of collecting the tax on a product which is indistinguishably mixed in the exporting market as if it were all of the same origin, can only occasion injury to the interested states, since it is clear that this liberty of option in the system of collecting would, if carried to its ultimate consequences, enable one state to regulate its fiscal interests to the injury of those of the other states, not to mention the annoyances and difficulties of every kind which such confusion in fiscal regulations would cause to merchants and to others interested in the coffee trade.

If, then, there is no law expressly prohibiting this, there is the interest of each of the producing states, there is the sentiment of justice which should control all other considerations there is, in short, that just aspiration for the necessary harmony between bordering states in so many respects independent, which, if it does not absolutely force them to adopt a harmonious system, at all events renders it highly expedient for them to do so.

It is necessary, then, that these states shall agree on some better way of securing a perfect system of collecting the tax and of protecting the legitimate interests of the producers, so that in a matter of such importance the indispensable harmony may be preserved, their greatest source of revenue kept unimpaired and the important rights of their principal tax-payers defended within just and reasonable limits.

It is with this object that I have the honor to request you to give the proper authorization to the representative that you may select to meet at the federal capital those of the other states herein mentioned, to which the invitation is extended, with a view to arriving at an agreement for definitely regulating this momentous question.

Certain of your acquaintance, I renew to you the assurances of my very high esteem. Health and Fraternity.

Christoph Jacques Bias Fortes.

A communication to the same effect was addressed to the president of the state of Espirito Santo.

In reply, the governor of Rio de Janeiro declines to accept the invitation.

BARCA QUINTA.

Rio 1st April 1895.

To the Editor.

Dear Sir.—This barca, already famous for its connection with the Terceira disaster, left Nictheroy yesterday for the city at about 3.25 p. m.; and two or three minutes after starting a heavy thumping noise was heard, accompanied by violent vibration which continued for some time. The passengers, about 60 in number, almost all leapt to their feet immediately and hurried from left to right to find out what was happening. The engines were suddenly stopped and the whistle blown continuously to call assistance. The noise of the whistle, however, seemed to upset the equilibrium of the female passengers, for they almost all burst into tears, while many of the male passengers rushed about shouting, "Meu Deus, não é nada; foi uma pancada, foram caídas de barro," etc., etc. (There were only bipeds on board). However every one seemed very much excited, although a stoker appeared and stated that the only damage sustained was the breakage of the main shaft.

At the time the whistle was first blown a barca was seen on its way from the city to S. Domingos, though some distance off the Quinta, continued to whistle, but the other barca, which was afterwards turned out to be the Sexta, paid no attention and made its way to S. Domingos where it discharged its passengers, and then proceeded to Nictheroy. About this time the Comr. Lage also crossing from the city, being the barca after the Sexta, hearing the whistling, came towards us and passed round

the Quinta, but finding the damage nothing serious and being unable to take off the other passengers, continued to S. Domingos.

The Sexta then left Nictheroy and came alongside, the passengers passing to her at once, and she returned to Nictheroy. Some of the passengers from the damaged barca immediately went up to the mestre of the Sexta and blacked him. When things were quieted down, and while still at the ponto in Nictheroy, I went to the mestre and asked him why he had not come immediately to the assistance of the Quinta, and he replied, "Porque a barca estava fundeada e não estava em perigo." I then enquired how he knew she was in no danger, and his reply was, "Ora então não comego o meu serviço." There is no necessity for commenting on these replies.

Two boats that were sailing a little way from the barca when the accident happened, came alongside, and a launch belonging to the company appeared at the time that the Sexta came up, circled the barca and made off again, so that when the passengers were transferred the Quinta remained drifting somewhere off the Armação.

It only remains for me to add that the Quinta whistled for 23 minutes before anything came alongside, that she had two miserable boats and two life buoys on board, notwithstanding the alterations so loudly advocated by the newspapers after the Terceira disaster, and which resulted in the Sexta having an arrangement of stowaways fixed under the seats, and several coats of paint applied to her rotten woodwork. The company is now probably lamenting that it did not put one or two coats of paint on the mainshaft of the Quinta, as it would have been strengthened considerably, and if they had another stoppage arrangement which could be made interchangeable, the passengers would be inspired with a great deal more confidence than they have just now.

I do not make these remarks so much on my own account, for owing to our position, the Armação was within easy swimming distance, but these things came to my mind when I saw the frightened children clinging round their parents.

Fortunately it was not a serious matter, but the incident will serve to show that passengers between Rio and Nictheroy are no better off than they were before the burning of the Terceira; if any serious accident occurs, it will be a case of each one for himself, as no assistance will be forthcoming until all is over.

Yours truly,

ONE OF THE QUINTA'S PASSENGERS.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The epidemic of cholera is said to be extinct at Campos and in southern Espirito Santo.

—The Rev. Mr. Hamilton is said to have recently killed 870 bats in his house at Piracicaú, S. Paulo.

—The situation in Pernambuco continues very critical. The city is dominated by armed force and the leaders of the opposition are threatened with assassination. This is military rule, and not a bad specimen of it!

—The Gazeta de Bahia says that nine prizes deserted from the Benjamin Constant warship cruiser remained in that port. Either life in Bahia must be very attractive, or the life on board very arduous, to lead the men to desert after so short a cruise.

—According to the correspondent of the Jornal do Commercio a very agreeable impression was caused in Pará by the report there circulated of the government's intention to replace minister Salvador de Mendonça at Washington with Barão do Rio Branco.

—Col. Valladao, *soi-disant* governor of Sergipe, has addressed a message to the legislature (also *soi-disant*) asking for constitutional amendments for enabling him to control the judges, who refuse, to a man, to recognize his government.

—In Alagoas Dr. Castello Branco has brought a suit before the superior court for annulling, on the ground of unconstitutionality of the election of Barão de Traipá and Col. José Peixoto to the office of governor and lieutenant governor of the state.

—According to a recent statistical report there were 18,300 habitations in the city of São Paulo, at the end of 1893. Adding the constructions of the past year, which do not appear to have been counted, the city now contains over 19,500 habitations.

—We regret to note that yellow-fever is steadily increasing in Santos. It is said that the discharge of sewage into the river along the city front is the principal cause of this outbreak. Surely our so-called health authorities know better than to permit so serious an infraction of sanitary laws.

—The vital statistics of various São Paulo towns for the month of February are as follows: Amparo, 89 deaths, 117 births, 13 marriages; Sorocaba, 47 deaths, 43 births, 11 marriages; Pindamonhangaba, 63 deaths (1 from cholera), 53 births, 8 marriages; Campinas, 131 deaths, 185 births, 50 marriages; Guaratinguetá, 84 deaths (16 from cholera), 74 births, 11 marriages; Rio Claro, 25 deaths, 64 births, 13 marriages. It will be seen that São Paulo will need a constant influx of immigrants to keep her population growing.

—The judge (Dr. Segismundo) appointed to investigate the incident which led to the death of Dr. José Maria in Pernambuco, has made his report. He finds that the charge that Dr. José Maria attacked the election board and fired upon the police officials, is false. He finds, moreover, that the victim was wounded by the first discharge of pistols by Col. Ottoni and Magno and was afterwards fired by Ottoni at the wounded man when he was lying outside. And yet Ottoni and Magno are still holding their official positions in Pernambuco and are defying the people there to interfere with them!

—There were 257 deaths in Santos during the month of February, 62 births and 21 marriages. Of the deaths 125 were from yellow-fever. Compared with previous years the February deaths from yellow-fever were: 125 in 1895; 4 in 1894; 474 in 1893; 412 in 1892; 3 in 1891; 1 in 1890; and 31 in 1889.

—There were 431 deaths in the city of São Paulo in the month of February, which shows an annual average of about 43 per thousand. The city registered numbered 508 and the marriages 113. Among the deaths were 5 from cholera, 9 typhoid fever, 1 yellow-fever, 28 other fevers and 28 pulmonary consumption.

—The effort to prosecute Col. Valladao for usurping the office of governor of Sergipe is still before the district court in that state. The colonel pays little or no attention to it, of course, but its promoters are much in earnest and may yet make him know that there is a law in Brazil as well as a military organization.

—The Provincia says that the real result of the election for prefect in Pernambuco was as follows: Estevão de Sá (opposition candidate) 2,117 votes; Afonso Costa (government candidate) 1,210 votes. The returning board, however, counted 1,188 votes for the latter and 1,046 for the former. This is true republicanism, of course!

—The organ of the new democratic-federal party in São Paulo, *O Democrata Federal*, made its appearance on the 25th ult. under the political direction of Deputy A. Moreira da Silva. The new party, which recognizes Dr. Americo Braziliense as its chief, promises to be a strong one in S. Paulo politics and will insure our new colleague a long life and success.

—On the 26th ult., at a meeting of members of the constitutional party in Bahia, there was appointed a committee, composed of Senator Virgílio Damasio, Deputy Santos Pereira and four others, to call upon the governor of the state and inform him that the party would use all legal means to defend its rights and that it protested against the employment of state troops for the purpose of promoting disorder and bloodshed at the meeting of the state legislature.

—A couple of footpads made a mistake in São Paulo on the night of the 29th ult. They stopped an Englishman in the Santa Cecilia suburb, covered him with a revolver and demanded his money. He called for help from some friends living near, and they lost no time in coming to the rescue, the footpads had to run for it, firing their revolvers at their pursuers. One of them was captured, however, but not before he succeeded in cutting one of his captors with a knife. There were no policemen about, as a matter of course, and the Englishman had to carry their prisoner to the police-station themselves.

RIO GRANDE DO SUL.

At Porto Alegre the house of Gen. Contreiras, by order of Gen. Moura, was searched and searched and Contreiras' son, who is under age, was arrested. When Contreiras complained Gen. Moura of this indignity, the latter told him that he had received information that there were stored in the complainant's house arms and ammunition for the revolutionists in the northern part of the state and that Col. Baptista had received munitions of war from this source. Gen. Contreiras published an article, occupying three columns of the *Mercantil*, in which he gives an account of what had occurred, concluding as follows:—"Conscious that I have no enemies except the servile flatterers of those in power, I declare that they may slander me, inform against me and intrigue against me as they please. They may even assassinate me for not having supported the government of Castilhos; but let them not do so behind the bayonets of my fellow-soldiers, shielded by the swords of my comrades in arms. Let them attack me openly and boldly like men of courage."

By a telegram received here on Thursday we learn that Gen. Moura has issued an order severely reprimanding Gen. Contreiras for his article in the *Mercantil* and for supporting the revolutionary movement which the government is opposing. The order which is violent in its tone, alludes to Gen. Contreiras' deafness and denies the correctness of his statements. As Gen. Contreiras is a retired officer and not subject to Gen. Moura's orders, and as the document officially published by the latter is extremely bad taste and highly detrimental to military discipline, the government will do well to change the commander of the 6th district.

On the same day (Thursday) the evening papers announced that the government had at last accepted Victorino Monteiro's resignation and confirmed the news. This is considered an important step towards the pacification of Rio Grande do Sul, though the friends of Castilhos are using every means in their power to prevent the government from withdrawing its support from the usurping governor. It is said that Pinheiro Machado, who recently returned to Rio Grande, has written in written declarations signed by prominent politicians promising to oppose any solution that deprives Castilhos of the governorship.

If it is discovered, however, that the latter cannot be held in office, it seems probable that an attempt will be made to induce the government to replace him with a successor relying on him, solely on official support, and thus avoid delivering the affairs of the state into the hands of its people. This solution, even if it should produce, as is not probable, a temporary cessation of hostilities, would be of no lasting benefit either to Rio Grande or to the rest of Brazil. The general welfare of the country demands that the government shall respect the right of the people of Rio Grande to manage their own affairs, the task for which, by the tenacity and courage with which they have defended that right, they have shown themselves to be eminently qualified.

A castilhist telegram of the 29th ult. claims that Telles has driven Guerreiro into Uruguay

and Apparcio Saraiva into the woods of Anna Cordeá, near Jaguarão. It adds that the latter's force is very much reduced and that Telles continues in pursuit of various dispersed bands of revolutionists.

It is again reported that Saldanha da Gama has entered Rio Grande. The number of troops under his immediate command is said to be 1,900.

Letters recently arrived from Porto Alegre confirm the news, received some time ago by telegraph, of the defeat of Menna Barreto by Guerreiro Victorio. Menna Barreto, who lost 200 men in the engagement, retreated to Encruzilhada.

These letters also state that 22 sergeants of the 13th battalion of infantry, formerly commanded by Col. Thomaz Flores, have been arrested.

In the north Col. Baptista, after taking Santo Antonio da Paraulha, captured two wagons loaded with ammunition intended for the government troops. Later the national guards of Conceição do Arrioio, after surrendering to him, were disarmed and released.

Telegrams of the 30th and 31st ult. state that Pina has effected a junction with Apparcio, and that Luca Tigre and Cabeda have entered D. Pedrito at the head of 500 men.

Elias Amaro is said to be at Pelotas. Some of his officers, who have arrived at Jaguarão, report that Apparcio has been killed. They say that the castilhistas lost in the recent fighting 21 men wounded. Another castilhist account states that Apparcio is at Jaguarão Chico with 200 men.

Azambuja is stated to have taken command of the division of Guerreiro Victorio, who is reported to have had an attack of congestion of the brain. This division is said to have camped on the 24th at Açuéguá, afterwards taking up the line of march towards Jaguarão Chico, two leagues in the rear of the column of Col. Telles. Azambuja is reported to have stated that Apparcio was in the vicinity of Bagé.

According to one account the reported engagement at Estiva was a mere skirmish.

The commander of a regiment of Uruguayan cavalry is said to have informed his government that a large force of castilhistas, supposed to number 2,400 men, was camped near Boa Vista at a short distance from a revolutionary force.

All of these accounts are so vague, conflicting and contradictory that it is impossible to form a correct idea of the real situation and we must consequently await further developments.

The rupture between Congressman Pedro Moacyr and the majority of the castilhist delegation to congress seems to be definite, as the latter have just issued a manifesto denouncing him in violent terms as unworthy of confidence.

A telegram of yesterday's date gives Gen. Tavares' report. After the fight of the 16th Telles returned to Bagé for reinforcements and on the 19th united with Elias Amaro. On the 21st he attacked Saraiva at Ferreiras, where his cavalry was repulsed losing 300 killed. Neither side gained advantage. Elias Amaro was wounded.

RAILROAD NOTES

—Traffic has been re-established on the Santa Isabel and Sapucahy railways.

—The government now wants foreign companies operating railways in Brazil to keep a register of shareholders here in Brazil. Why?

—According to the directors' report the earnings of the Paulista railway and river lines last year amounted to 13,930,608\$544, and the expenses to 9,175,747\$865. The directors proposed to distribute 4,860,000\$ in dividends, equivalent to 12 per cent. per annum, and to carry 455,153\$507 to account of reserve fund.

—The Banco Iniciador de Melhoramentos had, according to the report published some days ago by the board of directors, expended up to the end of last year the sum of 818,925\$886 on the railway from João Gomes to Piranga, no part of which is yet in operation. The government of Minas Geraes guarantees 6% interest on the capital, to the maximum amount of 30,000\$ per kilometre, employed in the construction of this road, which is 174 kilometres long. The state senate has passed a bill, which is still pending in the chamber of deputies, increasing to 45,868\$805 the maximum cost per kilometre.

—It was announced by one of the Sunday morning newspapers that part of the merchandise received at the maritime station (Gambôa) of the Central railway in January, destined for the section between Sabará and Gen. Carneiro, has already been dispatched for its destination. It was expected that the whole quantity received would be sent forward in a few days more. This is possibly matter for congratulation, but at first sight it certainly looks far from creditable. In January the Central railway receives merchandise for a certain district, but does not send it forward until the extreme end of March and first days of April. Surely it is full time that Brazil turned the Central railway over to someone who can run it!

—The annual report of the Jardim Botânico tramway company, which was presented to the shareholders on the 30th ult., shows decidedly favorable results for electrical traction, the net receipts from this system being 68% per cent. during the last half of 1894, against 31 per cent. from animal traction. For the year the gross receipts were 2,354,057\$806, and the expenditures 1,752,324\$213, leaving a net surplus of 601,732\$747. The dividends for the year amounted to 78700 per share, or about 2.85 per cent. on the capital. The total number of passengers carried during the year was 18,653,841, of which 971,140 travelled free. The traffic showed a large increase during the second half of the year, owing to the return of people who had retired because of the revolt.

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2. I beg to thank you again for the two bottles of Tincture of Nectandra Amara, which you were kind enough to send me, and I take great pleasure to inform you of the splendid results obtained on board the s/s *Apollonia* on my last voyage south. At the dinner table I noticed the absence of some friends and learned on inquiry that they had retired to their cabins, being down with sea-sickness. I looked them up and after taking some Nectandra, I had the great satisfaction to see them later on in the evening on the deck, completely re-established.

3. Still more: my cabin-partner, an Uruguayan, who was on his return to his country, told me that he suffered on board from sea-sickness to such an extent, that he had never been able to leave the cabin or to walk, such was his disposition to vomit whenever he attempted to get up from his bed. Very well, with even that passenger I obtained a complete victory by giving him some Nectandra in the afternoon and at night; the next morning I had the great joy to find him on deck, where, on seeing me, he thanked me many times, asking me at the same time for the name of the medicine, as he intended to buy some of it on our arrival at Santos. Myself, I fortunately do not suffer from that complaint, and had therefore no necessity to make use of your powerful preparation; as you see, however, it had all desired effect whenever it was wanted. Yours etc. ERNANI PINTO.

4. Pernambuco, on board s/s *Alagoas*, 17th January 1895. It was really an opportune moment when you had the kindness to offer me your most excellent preparation, the Tincture of Nectandra Amara, because when on board, I was very ill and became sea-sick, due in all probability to the long time that I had not undertaken a sea voyage. I took some of your medicine with a very good result and beg to thank you therefore most sincerely for your kind offer. Herewith please find three testimonials of some fellow-passengers, who were also benefited, like myself, by the use of that medicine. I shall feel gratified if you will use this letter at your own discretion and have the honor to be, Yours sincerely, ANTONIO PINTO DE MORAES.

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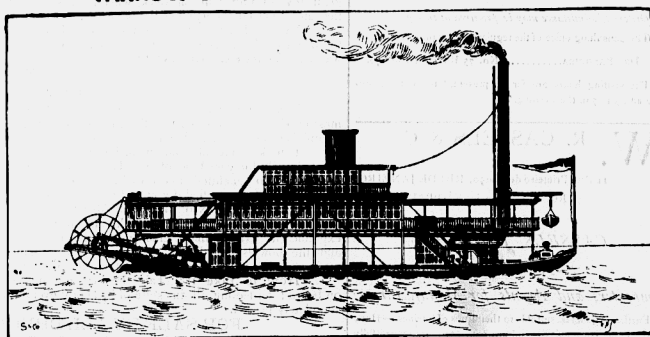
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