

# THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 30

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 26th, 1898.

THERE has been not a little harsh criticism in Latin-American circles of the policy and conduct of the United States toward Spain. Motives of a highly reprehensible character have been freely ascribed to the Americans, and they have even been charged with the purpose of reducing all Latin-America to a kind of tutelage to the United States. One of the French papers of this city has been greatly disturbed by the aggressiveness of the Anglo-Saxon and has been urging Brazil to unite with the Spanish-American republics before it is too late. In such questions, fact and common-sense ought to be the guide for us all; otherwise we shall run the risk of falling into some very absurd errors. In the first place, there is absolutely no foundation whatever for the assertions that the United States intends to assume a protectorate, or anything of that description, over Latin-America. No such purpose has ever been advanced by the government of the United States, nor has any responsible member of any government ever advocated it. The turbulent republics of Central and South America have been uniformly treated with kindness and with studious regard for their rights and independence. Even now, the party favoring the annexation of Cuba, which is merely a Spanish colony and has never yet been independent, is far from being large and aggressive. From what has thus far occurred, and from what we know of the American people, there is no disposition whatever to ignore the rights and feelings of Latin-Americans, nor to take one single advantage of their weakness. On the contrary, there is an almost quixotic sentiment in the United States in favor of promoting the welfare of these republics and of assuming a sort of voluntary responsibility for all their errors and mishaps. The object is neither selfish nor mercenary, but is a purely sentimental belief that it is a matter of high policy for the United States to prevent any European nation from invading or oppressing an American republic. As for the charges against the United States of being actuated by selfish motives and of exercising brutal force in the present struggle with Spain, the facts clearly prove them untrue in every particular. Two or three illustrations are all that we require to show this. When Admiral Dewey destroyed the Spanish fleet at Manila, he refrained from bombarding and obliging the surrender of the city simply to avoid the destruction of private property and the loss of life among non-combatants. He had the city at his discretion, and he

knew that he could take it later on without resorting to a bombardment. What other power would have exercised such clemency? Would Spain have done it? When the Spanish fleet was destroyed off Santiago, and a large number of prisoners were captured, they were taken to the United States and treated with kindness and consideration. Everything was done to soothe their wounded pride and to make them forget that they had been conquered. And then the government resolved to send them home, as a compliment to their courage. What other nation, may we ask, has ever treated its prisoners of war in such a manner? Has France ever done it? When the city of Santiago finally capitulated, the United States undertook to send all the Spanish soldiers home, and has actually contracted with a Spanish steamship company, whose steamers have been shut up in Mexican ports to escape capture, to perform the service. These steamers are therefore not only allowed to return to Spain, but are paid handsomely for taking home with them some thousands of their own countrymen! And should the war continue, these same steamers will doubtless be armed and sent out to prey on American commerce! What other nation has ever exercised such clemency and forbearance? There is not a parallel for it in history! Great Britain is not an ungenerous foe, but she has never yet treated an enemy with so much courtesy and consideration. With all her traditional politeness, France never yet failed to humiliate a defeated antagonist, nor Germany to follow up a victory with unsparing blows. It is the fate of war, and the vanquished knows it. And yet, in this war the Americans have not only been generous to the vanquished, solicitous for the protection of life and property, and considerate toward an exceptionally vindictive foe, but they have even gone out of their way to compliment the enemy on his courage and fortitude. This is not what the world has thus far known as war, nor is it the conduct of a nation filled with selfish ambition and dominated by rapacious greed. It is the spirit of a nation which is fighting for a principle, which is conscious of the justice of its cause, and which has no thought of striking an unfair blow. To the astonishment of the world, the Americans have known how to strike swiftly and decisively, and they have also known how to be considerate and merciful in the hour of victory. When the Spaniards recall the opprobrious terms which they have used against Americans, it will be with shame and regret, for they have been treated as though such things had never been said. And when the friends of Spain recall the extravagant prophecies which they have uttered of the greed and sinister designs of the great Anglo-Saxon republic, it will be with an apology. This war may be a turning-point in the history of the United States and may mark the beginning of a new era for her, but it will also usher in a new era in the history of war—an era of generous appreciation of a defeated antagonist, and of generous consideration for the lives and property of non-combatants.

THE banquet given to the minister of finance at the Casino on Friday evening last was undoubtedly a brilliant and imposing affair. It was given in the name of the representative native and foreign commercial houses of this city and was designed to express their appreciation of the ability and energy which Minister Bernardino de Campos has shown in solving the financial crisis through which we have been struggling for so long a time. Of the homage paid to the finance minister in his private capacity we have no criticism to offer. He is a gentleman of high standing and deservedly enjoys the esteem and admiration of a wide circle of friends. With the homage paid to his ability and acts as a finance minister, however, we can not join. The two great measures of his administration

are of a character which does not indicate financial ability or resource, nor are they anything more than makeshifts to relieve the financial situation from an impending danger. One of these was an arbitrary change in the interest rate on the internal loan, which, while relieving the treasury from a part of its interest obligations, did much injury to those who invested in these loans for the purpose of securing a fixed income. The second measure was the no less arbitrary refunding of interests of foreign loans and guarantees—a measure not yet definitely settled with respect to the railway guarantees, and which has elicited much criticism from some of the best financial newspapers abroad. These measures surely are not sufficient to warrant a public manifestation of approval, nor do we believe that the banquet of Friday last can be considered as such. It was announced that the affair had been promoted by the «national and foreign commerce» and yet in its highly eulogistic notice on the following day the *Notícia* said editorially: «We ought also to felicitate our illustrious colleague of the *Journal do Commercio*, Dr. José Carlos Rodrigues, for the brilliancy of execution of so worthy an homage, of which he was the initiator and one of the principal organizers.» As Dr. J. C. Rodrigues has not denied the statement, we may presume that it is true. What then becomes of the widely-advertised initiative of «national and foreign commerce?» The manifestation was initiated and largely organized by a journalist who is an intimate friend of the finance minister, and the affair is then labelled a «public recognition!» We can not, under such circumstances, believe that the business men of this city have really expressed an opinion on the matter. They have simply eaten a dinner organized by the editor of the *Journal do Commercio*.

WE have been waiting for detailed information of the naval battle off Santiago which would show who was actually in command of the American fleet during the battle, but until this morning the particulars have been vague and unsatisfactory. Admiral Sampson was in general command, as we all know, but his flagship, the *New York*, was absent at the beginning of the battle and did not return until just before it ended. Commodore Schley was second in command, and his flagship, the *Brooklyn*, was in the thick of the fight from beginning to end. This morning's telegrams state that Admiral Sampson's report of the battle had been sent in, and had excited comment because he made no mention of Commodore Schley. As the first telegrams mentioned the absence of Sampson and the orders issued by Schley at the beginning of the fight, we must believe that the battle was actually fought by the latter and that the honors of the victory are due to him.

## LEGISLATIVE NOTES

JULY 18.—*Senate*.—Senator Leite e Oliveira concluded his speech on the funding scheme and was answered by Senator Rodrigues Alves who defended the government's action in this matter.—*Chamber of Deputies*.—The disturbances at the Polytechnic School were again discussed.

JULY 19.—*Chamber of Deputies*.—Among the subjects discussed were those of the Prado said and the navigation of the River S. Francisco. The majority of the committee on legislation reported in favor of granting permission for the trial of Deputies Glycerio, Alcindo Guanabara, Irineu Machado, Torquato Moreira and Barbosa Lima, accused of plotting against the life of President Prudente de Moraes. There was presented a minority report against granting permission for the trial.

JULY 20.—*Senate*.—Senator Bernardo de Mendonça spoke against granting permission for the trial of Senator João Cordeiro.—*Chamber of Deputies*.—Among the subjects discussed were the following:—Prado said; navigation of the S. Francisco river; appropriation of \$15,052,520 for the payment of Italian claims; bill regulating the trial of counterfeiters and smugglers.

JULY 21.—*Senate*.—The senate discussed the navigation of the river S. Francisco. Senator Bernardo de Mendonça concluded his speech against granting permission for the trial of Senator João Cordeiro.—*Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Serzedello denounced as infamous the police report on the murder of Marshal Machado Bittencourt. «Who,» he exclaimed, «can believe that Francisco Glycerio is a murderer?» «No one,» cried several members of the S. Paulo delegation. «And no one,» asserted Deputy Seabra, «can believe

that the chief of police would stoop to an act of infamy.» These remarks were followed by a storm of cheers, protests and exclamations in which the gallery took part and which resulted in the temporary suspension of the sitting. Deputy Galeão Carvalho spoke against granting permission for the trial of the deputies accused of having plotted against the life of President Prudente de Moraes. The evidence against them, he said, had been extorted by the police from helpless prisoners by means of threats and torture.

JULY 22.—*Senate*.—Senators Aquilino do Amaral and Ray Barbosa spoke on the question of granting permission for the trial of Senator João Cordeiro.—*Chamber of Deputies*.—Several members of the Minas delegation protested against remarks made in the senate by Senator Severino Vieira. Deputy Galeão Carvalho concluded his speech against granting permission for the trial of the deputies accused of having plotted against the life of President Prudente de Moraes. Deputies Arrochides Galvão and Amphiphio spoke on the same subject.

JULY 23.—*Senate*.—Senator Virgílio Damasco spoke in favor of granting permission for the trial of Senator João Cordeiro.—*Chamber of Deputies*.—Deputy Amphiphio concluded his speech on the question of the trial of deputies accused of plotting to murder President Prudente de Moraes. Deputy Seabra spoke in favor of granting permission for the trial.

## PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The municipal intend of Santos has closed the small-pox hospital there because of the extinction of the epidemic.

—The Santos municipality has conceded a life pension of 100\$ a month to the mother of a recently deceased municipal employé.

—President Prudente de Moraes signed on the 19th inst. the bill regulating the exercise of the veto power of the prefect of the Federal District.

—The castilhista governor of Rio Grande do Sul has appointed Deputy Cassiano do Nascimento his vice-governor. Is such an appointment legal?

—In view of the decision of the supreme court declaring unconstitutional taxes on interstate trade, the state legislature of Pernambuco will shortly be convened for the purpose of revising the budget.

—Theft and burglary continue to be reported as of frequent occurrence in various interior towns of São Paulo. And in our opinion there will be no change until prompt and certain punishment follows the capture of such criminals.

—There have been some criticism of occurrences at the Santos custom house,—occurrences which various newspapers have spoken of as «scandalous.» The minister of finance has sent an official down there with full powers to enquire into the matter.

—The *Diário* of Campinas of a recent date says that some thieves had arrived there the day before, and were promptly intimidated by the police delegate to at once return where they came from. It is singular that the thieves should be so well known, and yet so few of them get punished.

—The state government of Minas Geraes has already expended over 25,000,000\$ on the new capital of Belo Horizonte, and now a dispute has arisen over an iron fence for the public park said to have cost over 3,000,000\$. Various officials connected with the enterprise deny the report, however, that such a fence has been imported.

—The *Journal do Commercio* says that Vice-President Manoel Victorino has written a letter to a friend in Bahia, stating that Deputy Glycerio has ceased to be leader of the «partido republicano federal;» but the *Tribuna* claims to be authorized to assert that no such letter has been written. Probably both statements can be satisfactorily proved.

—The municipal council of Jahu, São Paulo has recently adopted a by-law which compels as to doubt its sanity. It authorizes any citizen to apprehend and fine peddlers who are not provided with licenses. And to insure the execution of this extraordinary law, the council offers a reward of 100\$ for the detection and fining of every unlicensed peddler. A more demoralizing ordinance than this could not be conceived.

—On the 22nd inst. the opposition members withdrew from the Paraná legislature when the new electoral bill was voted in 2nd discussion. This action was taken as a protest against that bill which is said to contain many provisions contrary to the freedom of suffrage. If free elections are already nearly impossible, imagine what will be the state of affairs in Paraná when the bill is converted into law.

—A new restaurant at São Paulo will struggle against the current of exchange under the euphonious title of «Chops da Bolsa.» Our foreign readers will be interested to know that the word «chop» has nothing to do with the gentle sheep, and everything to do with one or more glasses of beer. The Bolsa, therefore, will be interested in exchange liquidations, and may be expected to contribute largely to an improvement of the present unfavorable situation.









Stocks and Bonds and Joint Stock Companies --- July 26th

Table with columns: Emission, Circulation, Public Funds, Nominal Value, Last Quotation. Lists various bonds and currencies.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Banks, Paid, Reserve Fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various bank stocks.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Railways, Paid, Reserve Fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various railway stocks.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Tramways, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various tramway stocks.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Steamships, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various steamship stocks.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Cotton Mills, etc., Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various cotton mill stocks.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Insurance, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last Quotation. Lists various insurance stocks.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Miscellaneous, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last Quotation. Lists various miscellaneous stocks.

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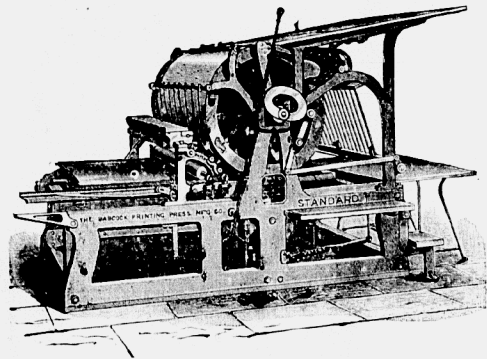
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