

THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 16TH, 1900.

NUMBER 3

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A SECOND EDITION of this useful guide book is now in course of revision and will be published at the earliest date possible. It will be considerably improved and enlarged. A few good advertisements will be received. For terms and other information apply to the Editor of The Rio News.

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São Paulo: Through express trains leave the Central station daily at 6 a. m. and 3.30 p. m. (dominiorio), returning leaves S. Paulo at 5 a. m. and 9 p. m. (dominiorio). Change of cars both ways at Pabatié. Numerous steamers weekly for Santos, connecting with the São Paulo Railway.

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BRITISH LEGATION.—No. 1, Rua Visconde de Ita borahy (opposite Custom House), Petropolis: EDMUND C. H. PITTS, Minister.

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BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.—No. 1, Rua Visconde de Itaborahy (opposite Custom House), WILLIAM G. WAGSTAFF, Consul General.

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Irvine Crawshaw, M. A., British Chaplain

74 Rua Mendô de Sâ, Iteahy.

IGREJA EVANGELICA FLUMINENSE.—Rua Largo de S. Joaquin, No. 174—Divine service in Portuguese on Sundays. Prayer meeting at 10 a. m., 7 p. m. on Wednesdays. Bible study and preaching at 7 p. m. JOAO M. G. DOS SANTOS, pastor.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Largo do Catete, English service every Sunday at 12 noon. Pastor, H. C. TUCKER—residence Rua do Conde, 75. Portuguese services every Sunday at 10 a. m., 7 p. m. on Wednesdays at 7 p. m. and at Fabrica Christa, Sundays at 11 a. m. and 4 p. m. Pastors.—M. DICKE and FRANK WEDERHEKER.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—No. 15, Travessa da Barreira. Services in Portuguese every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. ALVARO E. DOS REIS, Pastor.

Residence: On the Church premises.

BAPTIST CHURCH.—No. 25, Rua de Sant'Anna, Services in Portuguese every Sunday at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m., and every Wednesday at 7 p. m. W. B. BAGBY, D. D., Pastor.

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IGREJA PRESBYTERIANA DO RIACHUELO.—No. 234, Rua d'Anna Nery, Estação do Riachuelo, Services, Sundays 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.; Wednesdays 7 p. m.; FRANKLIN H. NICHOLSON, pastor. Primary school in the church building.

PETROPOLIS METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH.—Avenida Marcella Deodoro, No. 4, English service at 4 p. m. Sundays. Portuguese services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. on Sundays; 7.30 p. m. on Wednesdays, Sunday School at 10 a. m. EDMUND A. TILLY, Pastor.

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Dr. Brissey, Surgeon, graduate of the Faculty of Paris. Specialist in diseases of females, urinary passages. Radical cure of hernias, hemorrhoids, tumors, surgical diseases of the bones, and surgical operations. Consultations from 1 to 3 p. m., Rua da Quitanda, No. 42.

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Miscellaneous.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY'S AGENCY.—No. 20, Rua d' Ajuda.—H. C. TUCKER, Agent.

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BRITISH SUBSCRIPTION LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.—31, Rua Gonçalves Dias.—Open from 8 a. m. to 6 p. m.—For terms, apply to Librarian.

RIO SEAMEN'S MISSION.—Red and Reading Room: 10, Rua Camerino (formerly Imperatriz), 3rd floor. W. J. LUMBY, Missioner. Gifts of books, magazines, papers, etc., also of left-off clothing, will be gratefully received at the Mission, or at No. 27, Camerino.

YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION.—No. 39, Rua da Quitanda, 2nd floor. Rooms open from 8 a. m. to 10 o'clock p. m. Secretary's office: hours from noon to 10 o'clock p. m. R. A. W. Sloan, President; Myron A. Clark, General Secretary, Domingos de Oliveira, Hon. Treasurer.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

—Distressing news comes from Mendoza. The effects of the late storms there have caused the complete ruin of the grape-vines in the district. The crop is completely lost.

—The heat in Buenos Aires on Sunday last was so great that 36 head of cattle died from it at the slaughtering houses, and many horses dropped dead in the city streets. The ambulance corps was also frequently brought into use, many persons fainting in the streets through the extreme heat.—Montevideo Times, Jan. 5.

—The custom-house revenue for December has exceeded all expectations. The complete statement is not yet ready, but according to the latest calculation, the revenue for the month will be about \$60,000, or \$120,000 more than in the same month last year. This will have a favorable effect on the customs balance for the year.—Montevideo Times, Jan. 6.

—Congress, as usual, leaves the most important legislation of the year to the end of the extended session and when all manner of rash legislation can be rushed through. The budget should be taken up early, even if at the last moment there should be necessary some modification in consequence.—B. A. Herald.

—The provinces tax so heavily the farmer within their borders that the only hope of immigration in the national territories, and it should be the care of the national government to see that in those property and life be made safe, taxes be kept within limits with land to be obtained easily and promptly at a nominal price for settlers.—Buenos Aires Herald.

—The latest Argentine fad emanating from a certain quarter is the suggestion that veterinary surgeons, should be sent to British and foreign ports, to examine all stock for tuberculosis before being shipped to this country. The objection by British doctors and surely their qualifications are as high as any in this country.—B. A. Herald. (Quite so, but then the Argentine gets no pay where the English swells does the work.—Ed. News.)

—It is not often that any Argentine millionaire founds a scholarship. The late Sr. Leonard Pereyra has however founded 5 each in the faculties of Law, Medicine, Engineering and Theology, according to the will recently opened. These are tenable by poor students only. We hope that they will not be controlled by the government or they would fall into the hands of the state pauper students of the national college.—B. A. Herald.

—A Rosario paper calculates that great profits are obtainable from the cultivation of chick-pea [garbanzos]. The cost for a hectare is calculated thus:—Rent \$10, seed \$30, preparing ground \$15, sowing \$6, weeding, etc. \$5, interest on capital and tools 5, buying and stocking \$25, threshing \$25, bags \$22, total \$143, against 2500 kilos crop at 19 cents, \$475. This leaves \$332 profit, of which all but the odd \$2 would go to taxes, legal and illegal.

—Our vixenish neighbor will be interested to hear that his announcement some time since that a new Irish paper would be founded in Buenos Aires to supplant the Southern Cross, was nothing more than the product of a mischievous imagination. One or two uneasy mortals broached the scheme, but soon found there was not the slightest chance of success. The Southern Cross is too strong and its editor too popular to be disturbed by any such speculations.

—We desire to warn our readers against the wiles of a woman in black, who is going the rounds of the principal streets, and drawing many 20 cent pieces from gentlemen on the plea that she had lost her purse, and wants the money to pay the tram fare. She must spend a lot of money to get home, as she accosts a good many gentlemen during the day who have been too gallant to refuse a lady. The lady in question, however, has been watched.—B. A. Herald.

—Mar del Plata starts the season badly. There are only a few people there. A good number went down at Christmas but most of them returned. The largest hotels have only few guests and there are a great number of houses to rent and at much lower prices than last year. Entire blocks are unoccupied and unrented, so that as a matter of fact those who cater for the public at that place are anxious, for every indication points to a very short season at the best. It is hoped that in January and February a rush will revive the drooping hopes of the place.—Buenos Aires Herald.

—Mr. Somerwell of Gualeguay is recruiting a corps of volunteers in this city for service in South Africa. They will go to Capetown by the steamship «Alba». It will be a mounted infantry corps. Horses have been got in the south and Mexican saddles are being made specially for the party. The British minister has not been consulted, though probably, as the Boer republics are not recognised as belligerent or independent states by Argentina, this is not necessary.—Buenos Aires Herald.—(The belligerency of the South African republics has been recognized by Great Britain through a formal announcement to other powers that a state of war exists. Any public act of belligerency had not been recognized, recruiting in a foreign country is not permissible.—Ed. News.)

—The other day peaches were on sale at the markets for \$2 per dozen. The same day at Tigre, fruit growers received \$5 for a basket of some 200. This is the usual ratio between the fruit ring and the growers and the public.—B. A. Herald.

—The fraternity of barbers and hairdressers are greatly alarmed at the threat of the council of hygiene to impose certain sanitary regulations and precautions on their establishments, and they talk of retaliating in kind. What this may mean we cannot say, but we hope they will not take to cutting their customers' throats instead of their hair.—Montevideo Times. [Better let them alone, colleague. If they do cut their throats we need not rejoice, but there'll be no occasion for sheilding theirs.]

—A wave of retrogression seems to be passing over the continent. It is telegraphed from Chile that the authorities have permitted the reestablishment of bull-fights, despite the strong protests of the better class of the press and public. The ignoble sport has practically been revived in Argentina, and to-day, we are sorry to say, will witness its revival here in a modified form which is undoubtedly the prelude to its complete restoration. No sport ever invented has a more brutalising and demoralising effect on the people where it is held, as certain parts of Spain amply testify, and its reappearance on this continent can only be viewed with apprehension and dismay as a factor of social retrogression. The authorities here are much to blame for having allowed it to reappear in any form.—Montevideo Times, Jan. 6.

—We quote from the B. A. Standard:—«With deep regret we have to announce the death of Dr. W. N. Hiron, a gentleman highly esteemed as physician and surgeon and possessing literary attainments of no common order. Dr. Hiron came to this country at the time of the Paraguayan war; entering the medical service of the Argentine army; took part in the war operations and at the close of the war held the rank of Lieut. Colonel. Afterwards settling down to practise in Buenos Aires he held for some time the post of consulting physician to the British Hospital, and acquired there and in private practice a high reputation as surgeon. One of the pillars of the English Literary Society, he was there unequalled in debate. His English was pure; whether by pen or by word his expressions were models of our language, and commanded the attention warranted by variety of erudition. During the last few years Dr. Hiron had been severely afflicted and the intellect in British circles he will long hold a place in memory as a cultured gentleman and an eminent physician.»

THE COMMISSARIAT.

At the supply reserve depot at Woolwich Dockyard the requisition from South Africa for food for men and forage for horses amounts this month to 105,000 officers, n.-c.'s, and men, and 35,000 horses and mules, which approximates to the number which will probably be in the field during the month of January.

The dietary for the troops is a very liberal one. If fresh meat and vegetables can be obtained in the district which the troops have to pass through, each soldier has 1 lb. of fresh meat, vegetables at 1 lb., 1 1/2 lb. of bread, tea, coffee, chocolate, sugar, and milk.

When the troops have to fall back on the reserve rations they have 1 lb. of preserved meat, 1 lb. of biscuit, compressed vegetables, with occasional changes of bacon, pea-soup, cheese, rice, etc. Every other day the troops who want them have an allowance of fruit and 4 oz. of jam served out.

The wicker baskets for the sick and wounded contain champagne, port, arrowroot, boiled grapes, and everything which human kindness can suggest. In case of emergency each soldier carries in his haversack a tin case containing 4 oz. of cocoa paste and 4 oz. of dried and powdered lean beef, compressed into blocks, on which a soldier can live for 36 hours. Each horse has 12 lb. of hay, 12 lb. of oats, and 1 lb. of bran daily.—Morning Leader, Dec. 6.

—According to the Daily Mail's calculations, the British forces actually in the field in South Africa at the beginning of December numbered 61,000 men, viz: in Ladysmith 9,500; under Generals Buller and Cley in Natal 23,000; under General Gatacre advancing on Stormberg 6,000; under General French at Naauwpoort about 3,000; under General Methuen 7,500; at Graspan, Orange River and DeAar 8,000; in Kimberley 2,000; in Mafeking 1,000; under Col. Plumer in South Rhodesia 1,000. About the middle of the month, however, Gen. Methuen's column had been reinforced to 13,000 or 14,000 men, and Gen. Buller's to 30,000 men, which would increase the general total.

—Lord Valentia, who is to be one of the committee for enrolling the Yeomanry volunteers, is colonel of the Oxfordshire regiment of that arm. He is a good horseman, rides well to hounds, a good eater, as the House of Commons kitchen knows, and a good Mason, being D. P. G. M. for Oxfordshire. In person he is tall and dark, and looks every inch the Irishman he is. He dresses carefully, like London, and it is often to be seen there when legislators—all but he—have fled.—Morning Leader.

Banks.

LONDON AND BRAZILIAN BANK, LIMITED.

Capital £ 1,500,000
Capital paid up 750,000
Reserve fund 600,000

HEAD OFFICE: LONDON.

BRANCH OFFICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

10, Rua da Alfandega

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Capital . . . 10,000,000 Marks.

BRANCH OFFICE IN RIO DE JANEIRO.

(Cruzada 108.)

Branch-offices in São Paulo and Santos

(Cruzada 520.) (Cruzada 155.)

Draws on:

Germany..... Direction der Disconto Gesellschaft, Berlin and Norddeutsche Bank in Hamburg; Hamburg; M. A. von Rothschild'söhne, Frankfurt a M. and correspondents.

England..... N. M. Rothschild & Sons, London Manchester and Liverpool. District Banking Company Limited, London. Union Bank of London, Limited, London. Wm. Brandt's Sons & Co., London.

France..... Crédit Lyonnais, Paris and branches. Heine & Co., Paris. Comptoir National d'Escompte de Paris, Paris. Lazard Freres & Co., Paris. De Neuville & Co., Paris.

Portugal..... Banco Lisboa & Açores and correspondents.

and any other countries. Opens accounts current. Pays interest on deposits for a certain time. Executes orders for purchases and sales of stocks, shares, etc., and transacts every description of banking business.

Theil-Gutschow, Directors.

THE LONDON AND RIVER PLATE BANK, LIMITED.

LONDON: Princes Street, E. C.

PARIS: 16, Rue Halévy.

Rio de Janeiro:

No. 21, Rua da Alfandega.

Authorized by Decree No. 501, of 17th October, 1891.

Subscribed capital. £ 1,500,000
Realized do 750,000
Reserve fund 1,000,000

BRANCHES:

Paris, 16, rue Halévy, Pernambuco, Pará, Santos, S. Paulo, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Rosario, Mendoza and Paysandú.

DRAWS ON:-

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A NIGHT IN TIME OF WAR.

The clouds are up to sweep and tune That inharmonious larp, the moon; The north wind blows a harsh bassoon.

An old astrologer might say, By signs, by portents whirled this way, That earth was nearing her decay.

All apprehensions stir to-night With fluttering issues infinite; Conjunctions, phantoms, famine, blight;

The woodland shakes its aged bones And shrieks; beyond, in deeper tones The ceremonial cypress groans;

And I, a microcosm of all, Quake, shuddering, underneath the pall Of Nature's hurrying funeral.

Yes! tho' my skentic brain rejects My nerves' chain'd causes and effects, The nerves retain their deep defects;

And still my heart leaps in my side— A fluctuant ark upon its tide— With throbs and thrills unsoftened,

And knows not how to brave the stir Of sounds that beckon and shout to her Of sins that clouds and winds aver.

I shall not sleep to-night for dread Of spectral lights obsciously shed About my plumed and shadowy bed.

Faint, faint, these midlewd' clouds that twag, So feebly, where the music rang Deep organ notes when Homer sang!

Al! strange to find the quivering crests Of long-laid faiths, forgotten guests, Rise up at memory's dim behests!

Al! strange to feel the soul resume Its erst-oft heritage of gloom— The savage turning in his tomb — EDMUND GOSSIN in The Saturday Review.

THE WAR AS AN AMERICAN COUSIN SEES IT.

A DUST-COLOURED ARMY IN A DUST-COVERED LAND.

By Julian Ralph.

The following article from Mr. Julian Ralph, our special correspondent with Lord Methuen, reaches us in an envelope marked, "Opened under martial law," an endorsement which shows that all letters are now subject to the censorship. — Daily Mail, Dec. 11.

Orange River, Nov. 16.

It sounds gruesome to liken the sending out of an army to the return of "dust to dust," and yet if the reader could see an army or any number of soldiers in khaki out on the veldt he would at once think of the simile.

South Africa looks now as if it were the dust-bin of creation. Its ground is loose dust. Its air is flying dust. Its vegetation, animals, and insects are nearly all of differing shades of dust colour.

Yesterday in the train from De Aar to Orange River I passed five miles of

Copyright in Great Britain and the United States.

transports bringing up forage, food, and ammunition for Lord Methuen's advance column of ten thousand men — which is to sweep its way to the relief of Kimberley like a witch's broom, we hope. The five miles of wagons, mules, and negroes raised one long, high dense cloud of reddish-brown dust, through which we saw the canvas that covered the carts, the black faces of the natives, and such of the horses as were white or black. The wagons, which are all painted dust-colour, were lost to sight, and the host battalion of troops guarding the haul we could not distinguish at all until we were almost beside them.

Like all the troops we have in the field, they began in uniforms of dirt-colour, and are constantly getting dirtier and dirtier. This does not sound like a proud or a pretty thing to say of her Majesty's valorous soldiers, but it is true; it is so ordered, and it is good that it is so.

We are all getting dirtier and dirtier — inside and out. We breathe dust, drink dust, and eat dust. Very soon we get a little ill, because our internal arrangements go into rebellion against this new order of things, but the dust persists, our systems bow to it, and we go ahead fitter than before.

Some of the natives, I believe, live on certain kinds of dirt, and have no bother about cooking and killing and mowing and reaping. Perhaps if this war lasts long enough we shall simplify our affairs in the same way. I feel that I am making great strides in that direction.

I sit here in my dusty tent with my boots buried in dust. I am writing with a solution of dust by means of a dusty brown pen, and every line is dusted and dried as soon as it is written — as our grandfathers dried their writing with sand.

A dust-coloured cat has strayed out here on the veldt, and is watching a hole in the dust in order to catch a dust-coloured mouse. The air outside is as full of dust as your air in London is with smoke. The heat is intense, and all our throats are dry and caked with dust; yet, to relieve our thirst we must drink Orange River water — which is so full of mud that when a servant pours it in the basin, we think he must have washed his own hands in it first, without our having seen him do it.

This bit of descriptive comment on the field of war could be carried on indefinitely, but I am only writing it to point the moral of the situation — which is the wonderful aptness and value of khaki for military uniforms in South Africa.

When we saw a little of it faring towards the Queen at St. Paul's on Diamond Jubilee Day we thought it very tidy and refreshing, mixed in with all the red and gold. It seems to have been only the commander-in-chief of the American army who realised its practical value, for he went home and dressed his army in it, ready for the war with Spain. But when one sees the British army here, in this dust-coloured canvas, one quickly realises that it ranks high among the advantages we possess over the Boers.

At distances where red or blue or black would be striking, khaki is not seen at all. It blends our men with the landscape so completely that in bright daylight at short distances from the enemy our forces almost gain the advantage of an army manoeuvring at night.

We encourage the men to allow their buttons to dull. We order them to paint their bayonet sheaths dust colour. Their kit-bags and water-bottles and all their belongings are khaki-coloured or close to it. Our great guns are painted like the ruddy earth, and we do up our Maxims in great-coats of the same hued canvas. Our gun-carriages, limbers, great mule wagons, and small carts are all the same colour, and the water-tanks we drag after the troops are indistinguishable from our other belongings.

We are within two or three days of beginning our flight, and the regiments who are to swell our force are being rushed to us from England and the Cape. What do you suppose they find their brothers in arms doing—these stalwart veterans who look so smart and dandified when we see them in Chelsea or the barracks near Buckingham palace. They find them muddying themselves—nothing more or less.

As I write, the men are dissolving mud in their pails and dipping brushes in it to paint their white straps mud color. Every pouch and strap and cloth-covered water-bottle that would show white or dark is undergoing this treatment. And the drummers are doing the same with their drums—painting the white tightening cords with mud, muddying over the golden lions and unicorns and the gaudy regimental mottoes, so that everything shall look like the veldt—so that we shall be as dusty as the country.

When the heroines of the Arabian Nights tales watched from their palace roofs to see the clouds of dust that announced the coming of their husbands and lovers they knew that out of the dust-clouds would emerge figures in gaudy silks or lustrous gold and silver. But here on the veldt, if the hapless heroines in Kimberley and Mafeking are watching for us who are in Lord Methuen's flying force it will be different. They will see the dust separate from the moving body beneath it, but what that body is their best glasses will not tell them until it is but a mile or two away. It may be a troop of the dust-colored sheep which move in enormous bands upon the scorched veldt, or it may be only a line of dust-hued farm wagons, or, if they are not mistaken, and look at just the right time, it will be a dust-coated lord and his earthy-luad staff, leading a myriad armed men, clothed and stained the color of dust.

While Tommy is wholly and solely earthlike in tone, his officers differ from him in wearing shiny buttons, stars, crowns, and sword hilts, and pipe-clayed belts and straps. In this difference has lain the danger of all in battle in this campaign, and from it has come the death of far too many. All alike recognize this, yet how differently they discuss the proposal to have the officers dress like the men.

The Tommies are all in favor of the change, though it would greatly increase their own danger and losses. They are enthusiastic for having the officers doff swords, carry light carbines, and do away with their ornaments. They discuss the mortality above the ranks with bated breath as a thing altogether awful, and after one skirmish, where one officer was killed and two were wounded, I did not hear a private speak of the two Tommies who died at the same time. With the officers the subject is differently treated. Some discuss the prospect of disguising themselves as if it were a thing to be considered only for the sake of deceiving an unfair foe, and gaining a point that way. Others indignantly spurn the idea as undignified and unworthy.

As brave a man as any is Major Rimington, head of the Imperial Corps of Guides.

"You may be sure," he says, "that the Boers will never know which are the officers and which the men in my troop. They'll all seem alike as so many peas."

He might better have said "as so many walnuts." for these guides—scouts in reality—are more like the veldt than are the red ant-hills which dot it all over. They are the most picturesque body in Lord Methuen's advance column. There are 200 of them—all rough riders and all beautifully mounted. Each man is obliged to speak Boer or Kafir, and many speak both. Every one must be thoroughly well acquainted with some

Part of the country around and before us. All carry carbines and pistols, and around each man's dust-brown slouch hat is bound a strip of striped fur like the racoon skin of the early American trappers and later Texan rangers.

These men have been scouring the country literally for hundreds of square miles day and night while on duty at De Aar. Their pay is 5s. a day. The people of the region call them "the night cats," and their leader calls them his "catch-em-alive-o's." Two are Americans fresh from the Klondike, and their troop doctor is an American named Lindley, who is well known all over South Africa. The rest are all Afrikaners of English descent. Many have left the Transvaal and the Free State to be with the English. They like their hard life, but pray to be included in the fighting.

I have said so much about them because in their troop the officers are as dusty as the men, and therefore they best of all typify the dusty army that is to blend itself with the dusty veldt, except when its rifles and guns vomit flame in battle.

JULIAN RALPH.

THE DANGERS OF PROLONGED SEA-BATHING.

Several instances of illness due to excessive bathing in the sea have come under our notice. In each case the patient suffered from pains in the limbs, depressed circulation, and prostration, with general symptoms of malaise and chill. The duration of the illness was in some instances three weeks or more, showing that the nerve centres had received a severe shock. Inquiry proved that on several successive days the sufferers had remained in the sea for at least an hour under a scorching sun. The unwisdom of such a proceeding in persons who are not accustomed to prolonged baths and to violent muscular exercise is all too apparent. A young man fresh from college training can swim for an hour with ease, and afterwards be none the worse for it. But how wide the difference between this experience and that of a woman who, perhaps, takes a morning sponge bath and little or no active exercise! Can she be expected to face the extremes of temperature involved in an hour's sea-bathing, to say nothing of the sheer muscular exertion of paddling, floating, swimming, and moving about in a tidal water? The proper length of a sea-bath for a novice should not be more than five or ten minutes, gradually lengthened as tolerance is acquired. Even a man who has been a strong swimmer needs to begin sea-bathing cautiously after a long abstinence. Many a whilom athlete has met his death by trusting to his former prowess. Yet sea-bathing, properly used, is undoubtedly a most valuable means of restoring health and tone to the debilitated. *Medical Press.*

EARL OF AVA.

The Earl of Ava, who is reported to have been killed at Ladysmith in the battle of the 6th inst., was the son and heir of the Marquess of Dufferin, and was only 36 years of age. He was one of the popular heroes of the war and his death will be deeply mourned.

He was a retired lieutenant of the 17th Lancers, but when the war broke out he determined to take part in the fighting, and went to Ladysmith. There he prevailed upon his friend Colonel Ian Hamilton to attach him to his staff as a scout, and in this capacity, although he had no horse, he went out with General French's column to Elands-Bagte. In the battle which followed he did his galloping on foot throughout that hot day, his last instructions being to carry to the Gordons the order to advance. When he reached the regiment he had hardly breath enough left to pass the word. By way of rest after such a morning's work, he joined the Gordons in their resistless attack on the rocky ridge where the Boers were so strongly entrenched. Lord Ava came out of the fire unscathed. The fate of comrades shot on either side of him is one of the saddest chronicles of the war. Since that trying day he has been a prime favorite in camp and a trusted lieutenant among his commanding officers, and it may be said that his loss is deeply deplored by every man of the heroic little army with which his fortunes had been cast.

—Lyddite, it should be explained, is a humane explosive. A charge of 4 1/2 lb. is employed in the 50-pound howitzer shells. The explosion is so violent that the shell is broken up into small fragments, which are projected to great distances, thus thoroughly searching the ground. Indeed, there have been cases in practice with these shells at close range of fragments flying back upon the santly near the guns. Every one near the place of the explosion is killed, those who are not struck by fragments dying painlessly by shock. There is less cruelty with lyddite than in using powder shells, which mangle terribly but do not always kill. *—Daily Mail.*

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The most comfortable Hotel

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Mr. J. F. FREITAS, proprietor of the old and well known Freitas Hotel, desires to advise his friends and former customers that he has reopened that hotel at No. 120 RUA DO RIACHUELO in a large and most attractive edifice acquired for this special purpose.

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Special attention will be given to orders by mail and telegraph.

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An old established English firm in Paraná is open to accept a good Agency. Large premises. Correspondence solicited. For particulars apply to Craschley & Co., 35 Ovidor.

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Englishman desires to board with English family; healthy situation and cleanliness essential; opportunity to learn Portuguese a recommendation. Address, stating terms and full particulars, Raff, c/o Rio News. (11.)

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A very well recommended German lady, knowing French and English, would like to join a family with children going to the United States, to give lessons and make herself useful. Letters may be addressed in care of *The Rio News*. (13.)

Lady or Gentleman, desiring furnished or unfurnished room with dinner—where cleanliness and moderate price is an object—can find same with quiet family—Rua 19 de Fevereiro, 60, Botafogo.

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(Without board), furnished Bedroom small English family. Apply to A. B. C. c/o Rio News. (11.)

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Wanted for two children in Petropolis. Apply to C. H. Walter, 115 Rua da Guilandina. (13.)

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Two good unfurnished rooms, sala and bedroom, with service, for a single middle aged gentleman in a quiet family not more than 20 minutes from town, must be a quiet neighbourhood. Address: Caixa do Correio 472.

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After the 1st January rooms can be obtained at No. 2, Rua Boa Viagem, S. Domingos, which is being put in order for an English chaera. Application may be made at the house or at this office.

THE COLONIAL VIEW.

The following lines by an Australian, Mr. Arthur Macquarie, very neatly expresses the colonial view of the situation brought about by the Anglo-Transvaal war:

A FAMILY MATTER.

Come, my hearties—work will stand
Here's yer Mother calling;
Wants us all to lend a hand
And go out Uncle-Pauling.
Catch your nags and saddle slick!
Quick to join the banners!
Folks that treat the family thick
Must be taught their manners.

Who would potter round a farm
Fearful of clubbed gun-stroke,
And keeping cosy out of harm
Die of footer's sunstroke?
Gasts of distant battle-noise
Tell that men are falling.
Get yer guns, my bonny boys,
Here's yer Mother calling.

Buckle on yer cartridge-belts,
Waste no time about it;
Force is missing on the veldts,
We must off and rout it.
What if fate should work its worst?
Men can join in falling.
Come on, chaps, and be the first!
Here's yer Mother calling.

From U. S. Consular Reports.

AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL CONDITIONS IN PARANA.

Of the three great southern states of Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul, Paraná, and Santa Catharina), Paraná is the least developed. Its area is 85,438 square miles, and its present population, exclusive of the Indians, is about 250,000, 55 per cent. of which is colored.

Topographically, the state may be divided into two zones, representing the strongest possible contrast; the littoral zone, situated between the Atlantic ocean and the mountain range which runs from north to south, parallel with the shore—the Serra do Mar; and the mountain zone extending west from there to the Paraná river. The narrow strip along the seashore, as a rule, is swampy and unhealthy, the temperature varying between 10° and 35° C. (50° to 95° F.). The altitudes of the table-lands vary from 200 to 1,200 meters (656 to 3,936 feet). The sanitary conditions are very favorable, except where, as in Curitiba and Lapa, the soil and water are, for want of proper drainage, poisoned by sewage. The climate is excellent. The average temperature is 17° C. (62° F.) for the subtropical part of Paraná; in the table-lands the thermometer sometimes, in July, falls below the freezing point.

The harbor of the state—Paranáguá (with Antonina) is connected with Curitiba, the capital and distributive center, by a railroad, which constitutes a masterpiece, not to say a miracle, of engineering, and on its way up the mountains (over 3,000 feet) leads through scenery of unparalleled beauty and grandeur.

It is to be regretted that none of the many pleasure seekers, travelers, tourists, artists, and students who annually migrate from the United States to France, Italy, Egypt, Germany, and Switzerland find it convenient to visit this beautiful and highly interesting American country, which could be made so easily accessible.

The railroad leading from Paranáguá to the interior (Compagnie Générale de Chemins de fer Brésiliens) was built with French capital, by the celebrated Brazilian engineer Teixeira Soares. It comprises the following sections: East from Paranáguá to Antonina, 16 kilometers (9.9 miles); west from Paranáguá to Curitiba, 102 kilometers (63.37 miles); and from Curitiba to Serrinha, 71 kilometers (44 miles); thence north to Ponta Grossa, 107 kilometers (66.48 miles), and south to Rio Negro, 89 kilometers (55.3 miles). There is a branch from Restinga to Porto Amazonas (over 12 miles) connecting the railroad with the Iguassú and its tributaries, along which the more important colonies are situated. The

development of the Iguassú valley is yet in a very primitive state, but this district is destined to have a great future.

The Iguassú river, a tributary to the Paraná, is about 800 miles long, but only 220 miles are navigable—the section between Porto Amazonas to Porto da União. Although the latter is at present only a little village of about 1,000 inhabitants, there is no doubt in my mind that it is one of the future big cities of Paraná; that ere long it will be a large railroad center, outgrowing Curitiba, and will control the trade of the most important part of this promising young state. The construction of a railroad from the coast of Santa Catharina through the rich and very populous German colonies Blumenau and Joinville, northwest to a point connecting with the Rio Grande and São Paulo road (now in course of construction) and the Iguassú region is a question of a few years; and both these lines will have to touch Porto da União, which place will also be the terminal point of the proposed extension of the Paraná trunk line from Restinga southwest along the Iguassú. After those railroads are completed, trade and commerce along the Iguassú region and within the fertile plateaus in the west of the state will be rapidly developed, and the bulk of the import and export trade of Paraná will probably move by way of the Santa Catharina ports—Itajahy and São Francisco—more cheaply and quickly than by way of Paranáguá-Curitiba.

Paraná, like the two other south Brazilian states, is crippled for want of capital and proper immigration. Since emigration from Germany has practically ceased, the progress of southern Brazil is retarded.

Serious mistakes were made in the colonization of Paraná. Until recently, immigration into Brazil was largely subsidized by the state and the national governments; but it seems the men who had charge of that function were not careful enough in the selection of the material with which they colonized. Large sums of money were wasted and undesirable elements brought to the state in great numbers. Guided by the fear that any one class of immigrants might become too influential by concentration of its forces, some of those formerly in charge of the colonial system located the ninety colonies in such a way as to put the most heterogeneous elements into the closest proximity, intersecting small parcels of one nationality with small parcels of another. Austrian Poles with Russian Poles and Italians, Germans with Russian Poles, Italians with Prussian Poles, etc. Thus the colonial map of Paraná presents the aspect of a German-Latin-Slavonic crazy quilt, a fact which is not conducive to a homogeneous development of the commonwealth.

Of the 250,000 inhabitants of the state, about half are natives of Brazil, 40,000 are German, about 40,000 are Italian, 35,000 are Polish (Austrian, Russian and Prussian), and the rest are of Spanish, French, and other origin.

The import trade is almost exclusively in the hands of the Germans. It amounted in 1897 to \$1,000,000 in foreign goods and about \$175,000 in domestic goods. There were imported 362,000 kilograms (798,000 pounds) of coffee from Santos and Rio; 46,000 kilograms (101,400 pounds) of tobacco from Bahia; large quantities of dried beef and tongues from Rio Grande do Sul, Argentina, and Uruguay; canned goods and preserves from Germany, either direct or through dealers in Rio. Of manufactured articles, there were imported from Germany machinery, rails, iron, hardware, barbed wire, porcelain, china, earthen ware, lamps, pharmaceutical preparations and implements, cutlery, clothing, gents' furnishing, leather and leather ware, shotguns and revolvers, glass-

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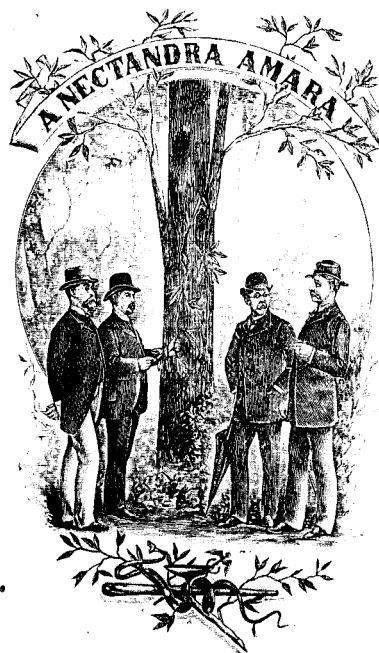
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ware; from the United States, druggist's supplies and coal oil; from Norway, 837,000 kilograms (1,845,300 pounds) of pine wood. Importation from France has almost entirely ceased. The cotton piece goods were imported from England, which country also furnished the entire supply of coal.

The export during 1897 consisted chiefly of yerba maté (Paraguay tea), some hard wood, and an experimental shipment of hides and horns to France. Two-thirds of the yerba maté exported (\$1,500,000) went to Argentina and Uruguay and almost one-third to Chile. Unfortunately, none was exported to the United States. For various reasons, the import of maté into the United States ought to be encouraged. From my observation and personal experience, I feel justified in recommending its use as an excellent stimulant and nerve tonic. It is preeminently a temperance drink, and the temperance societies in the United States could do a very useful work by helping to popularize it. Yerba maté, or Paraguay tea, as it is called abroad, has all the stimulating and sustaining qualities of Chinese tea or coffee, without the detrimental effect caused by their constant and excessive use—affection of liver and kidneys, irritation of the nervous system, etc.—and it is very cheap. The great masses in Uruguay and Argentina, including the famous gauchos (cowboys) of the great prairies, who drink it constantly instead of water, tea, or coffee, hardly ever use alcoholic stimulants. Intoxication is a rare occurrence there. It is almost incredible what hardships they undergo and how vigorous they are, while often for a successive number of days they use nothing to sustain them but maté.

Aside from the sanitary benefits, in helping to develop the maté industry in Paraná, we would secure commercial advantages of great importance. The natural resources of the state of Paraná are very considerable, but as yet, little has been done to develop them. Only a comparatively small part of the state is under the influence of civilization; commerce is in its infancy, and the few industries represented in the state (16 maté mills, 7 small breweries, 3 foundries, 12 barrel factories, some little soap-making shops, a few tanneries, and a furniture factory in Curitiba) are all in a very primitive condition. The only exception is a large match factory in Curitiba, which is well equipped and does a very profitable business.

Although the soil on the highlands is fertile, containing excellent grazing land, and the climate very favorable, the animal industry—cattle, hog, and sheep raising—is very far from what it ought to be. For want of systematic care and regeneration, the cattle are degenerating and the pastures are neglected. During my travels through the interior of Paraná, I found, even in districts with large herds of cattle, milk or fresh butter a rare luxury. They would rather go without milk than trouble themselves to milk the cows.

Agriculture and horticulture are in the same state of inertness, suffering from want of capital, deficient means of transportation, bad roads, and scarcity of help.

A very laudable effort to create a new industry, not only in the state of Paraná, but throughout southern Brazil, has been made by a teacher, Mr. Emil Schenk, of Curitiba, who is working hard and successfully to establish rational bee culture. He travels, lectures, and publishes a paper to propagate this work, for which there is an excellent field throughout southern Brazil. I have induced Mr. Schenk to introduce American hives, implements, and machinery appertaining to apiculture. They have given good satisfaction and will undoubtedly, in the course of time, help to secure

numerous orders for the specialists (in Ohio) from whom they were bought. Mr. Schenk deserves the fullest encouragement for his intelligent and public-spirited devotion to this good cause.

Commercially and industrially, there is no trace of American influence in the state of Paraná; it is therefore doubly gratifying that American intellectuality is represented, highly and ably represented, in another direction—popular education. This report would be incomplete if it did not mention the splendid service rendered to the cause of humanity, Americanism, and good education by the two ladies who conduct the Presbyterian mission school in Curitiba—Miss Mary P. Dascomb and Miss Elmira Kuhl. For over a quarter of a century they have devoted their high qualities of heart and mind to the mission work in Brazil, and came pioneering to Curitiba over ten years ago. Their school now contains three hundred pupils of all nationalities and is prosperous and successful beyond anticipation.

EUGENE SIEGGER.

Consul-General at Rio de Janeiro, Washington, October 17, 1899.

THE LAST TEST MATCH.

The test match which I am about to describe was not played at Trent Bridge, Headingly, Old Trafford, Lord's, or the Oval. The scene of the encounter was Laburnum Court (off the Mile End road), where, on a cobbler-stone pitch, with an old wire fire-screen for the wicket, the strip of a box lid for a bat, and a rag-stuffed handkerchief for a ball, the representatives of the Old and New Country fought for supremacy.

When I came upon the scene—I, a curate, pursuing my professional ministrations—Australia was in and England was bowling. Australia was ragged, sunburnt urchin, with bare feet and a very dirty face. England differed little from his rival, except that his hair was curlier and his face a trifle cleaner. As I approached, he delivered the rag-stuffed handkerchief. Pitching on the cobbles, it took a tremendous break, which carried it some yards wide of the wicket.

"That one 'done' a lot," said the batsman, critically. And then he came forward a few paces and nudged the cobbler-stones with his strip of wool quite in the approved manner, and with such an air of seriousness as awakened my keen attention.

"So you are having a nice game of cricket, my little men?" I observed, not then being aware of the tremendous issues involved in the conflict.

"A game of cricket?" said the bowler, regarding me compassionately, as it were, for my ignorance. "This 'yut no game, giv' nor. This is a test match. That's wot this is."

"Oh, indeed?" I said, smiling.

"Yuss," he repeated. "It's a test match, and don't you forget it. I'm England." "E's 'Strileyer. And Strileyer's won the torse and is tikin' fust knock."

"Ah!" I said. "And has Australia made many runs?"

"Oh!" he replied, with an impressive wag of his curly head. "E've notched a good few—fifteen. But there's four wickets 'down. Darling and Trumper and Tremble and Clem. 'Til is orl'alt. This is Sid Greg'gry wot's battin' 'em."

"How is really?" I ejaculated more and more amused.

"Yuss," he said. "And a tricky little devile Sid is. Don't 'e know 'ow to use 'is legs jus' over; only 'e wouldn't go. Fack is, yer wants a humpire in these test matches," concluded the little urchin with solemn conviction.

"Well, let me umpire for a bit," I suggested. "Yes?" he answered, surveying me with doubtful criticism. "Do yer know the game, giv' nor?"

"I think so," I answered, laughing. "I was in the Cambridge eleven."

He looked up at me, half impressed, half incredulous.

"Wos yer, really?" he said. "Yer 'yut tikin' a feller on?"

"I was, really," I told him.

"Then I think yer'll do," he was good enough to answer. "Strileyer, this 'ere cove from Kimebridge is a goin' to humpire for us, so yer look out for them legs o' yours."

"Garr!" retorted Australia, defiantly. "Now we shan't be long. 'Ow's that for middle, humpire?"

I gave him middle, and play was resumed. The English attack, as my little bowler informed me, was entrusted to Lockwood. Now everybody knows that the famous Surrey trundler is a "trier," if ever there was one. But even he, in his most resolute moods, could not have put more determination into his work than did this little street arab. He had but spoken the truth (from his own point of view) when he disclaimed for this encounter the status of a mere "gime." His eager eye, his set teeth, his grim, determined look

as he bowled, showed clearly that to him it was a struggle of the deadliest earnest. He was fighting all he knew for the credit of the Old Country. And when with his fifth delivery—a full toss—he hit the fire-screen full in the middle, he promptly stood on his head and turned three cart-wheels in token of his supreme exultation.

"'Ow's that for your Sid Greg'gry?" he demanded triumphantly, when he had resumed his normal posture.

"'Til!" came back the scoffing rejoinder, "one Sid don't make a 'Strileyer. Yer see now wot yer can do wiv Noble. Give us middle, humpire."

Noble proved to be in form. He hit the rag-stuffed handkerchief to all parts of the court, accompanying each swipe with a "'Ow's that for your Lockwood?" or "Your Jack 'Ernie 'yut no use" or "Does that satisfy yer, Mr. W. M. Bradley?" etc., etc., until England grew really desperate. At last with the score at thirty, Ranjy was put on to bowl. And Ranjy, as he has often done before, succeeded where the regular trundlers had failed. He bowled Noble with his second ball.

"Well, if that didn't ought to have gone to the boundary, no ball never did," was Australia's comment.

"Why didn't yer send it to the boundary, then," demanded England.

"Cos I thought I'd give yer a chance—just to make a gime of it."

"'Bil? Yer was fair beat, yer know yer was, yer long-legged kangaroo."

"'Yah! I see it off the w'y. And if I didn't, I'd sooner be a long-legged kangaroo than a mynnyge British lion, any d'yer."

"Garrn with yer. 'Oo's nex'?"

"J. J. Kelly, mite. See if 'e don't give your Ranjy socks."

"E'll need to, any w'y, if yer really means to make a gime of it," grinned England, mockingly. "Are yer ready, J. J.?"

"Ask another. Come on."

Ranjy came on—with a yorcker, which hit the fire-guard. Again England stood on his head and turned cart-wheels in his exultation.

"'Yah! 'e scuffed." "Your stumper didn't stop there long, 'Oo's nex'?" Jones—oh? Now, then, Jones, ole feller, wot would yer like. Don't be shy. Give it a nime—arf-volley, long 'op, full torse, or wot? Ranjy's ready to oblige."

"Rats! As if 'e knowed where one of 'is borls was a goin' to pitch. But wotever it is, Jones is ready for it."

Jones, as it turned out, was ready. The delivery happened to be a full toss. He caught it fair, hitting it hard to the on. There ensued a noise of breaking glass. The rag-stuffed bundle had gone clean through a pane of one of the ground floor windows.

"Lor, if it 'yut muvver's," cried England, in great dismay. "Guess it's abait time ter tike the luncheon intervall."

As he spoke, he hurriedly caught up the ragged jacket that had done duty for the bowler's wicket and made tracks down the court, closely followed by Australia with the fire-guard. Their escape was none too soon effected, either.

For out loomed a fat woman, with a very red face, who shook her fist excitedly at their retreating figures, shrieking after them:

"Ugh, yer little imps, won't I smack yer, when I ketches yer! And you, a parson, a aidin' and abettin' 'em in their devil's tricks," she added, turning angrily on me. "I'm ashamed of yer."

"They were only having a harmless game of cricket. It was the purest accident," I explained.

"Cricket! I'll cricket 'em, I'm sick of their cricket. So you'd be if you was their mother," she said, speaking very fast and shrill. "It's nothing but cricket with 'em. Why it was only yesterday they was a teachin' their sister—poor innocent—to ply cricket in the back kitchen, with a noo pteriter and a fryin'-pan. And last week—you see neither of them little monkeys hadn't no boots on, didn't yer?"

I nodded.

"Well," she continued, in the same shrill excited tone. "Wot d'yer think they did, with 'em? Put 'em up the spout, they did, so to py their w'y into Lord's to see the 'Strileyers! Drat the Strileyers, I say. I wishes, ter Gawd, they'd staved 'em in d' 'Strileyer. Them two limbs o' mine was had enough before they come over. But since they've been 'ere, there's bin no doin' with 'em. They worrits my life 'alt. Carn't even tork abait nuthin' else, Jim, the eldest, and 'e 'yut ten yet, corls hisself England, and Neddie—wot's only risin' nine—sez he's 'Strileyer. And they squabbles and argues acrose the tible at meals, and even when they're abed o' nights, corlin' one another lions and kengeros and orl sorts of senseless nimes, till I often foz to give 'em both a good 'slipper'. Ned, 'e wouldn't be so bad, if it wosn't for Jim. But Jim's downright crized abait it. Tikes it to 'eart so ter speak, in a most ridik'us w'y, seemmin' to forget that it's orl 'is own silly puerce. But there! 'Tyn't no use torkin' to you. For I b'leaves yer sides with the little monyers, blimed if I don't."

"I'm a cricketer myself, you see," I replied.

"Are yer? That's a man of your cloth ought to know better. Cricket, like football, and 'orse-racin' is the curse of the kentry."

"At any rate," I said, wishing to mollify the good woman and so to save my two little friends the threatened smacking, "here's two shillings to pay for the broken window."

"Thank'e, sir," she answered, growing, on the instant, almost obsequiously civil.

"Yer a gentleman, though yer are a cricketer."

I smiled and wished her good-day. As I left the court, after visiting the one or two sick people whom I had come to see, I found England and Australia hovering near the entrance.

"I say, she give it of yer, did'n't she?" inquired the Antipodes, sympathetically.

"'Tyn't no keteh standin' humpire on these occasions," chimed in the Mother Country, with a sagacious nod. "Wot did she sy to yer?"

"She told me all about you both, and how it is you are running about herefoot. It was very wrong of you, you know," I added, trying to look severe. "The boots were not your own to put with. Your mother had paid for them. It—it was not honest."

"Wosn't it, giv'ner?" said England. "We didn't mean no harm. But we wos just mad to see the 'Strileyers. Arterwards, I wished I hadn't done it, though; for it fair turned me up to see our fellers get such a towelling. And then, when we got 'ome, muvver give us the feel of 'er slipper that vicious—lumme, it did sting, didn't it mite?"

"Smerted on the next dy," assented his brother, with emphasis.

"Well, look here!" I said. "If you'll be very good boys in the meantime, I'll take you both to see the last test match at the Oval in August."

"How these two dirty little faces, especially Jim's, lighted up when I promised them that!"

RIP VAN WINKLE'S LAND.

LIFE IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES IN AFRICA.

The Portuguese colonies in Africa are the Rip Van Winkle's land of reality. After three centuries of white domination they remain pretty much in the condition in which Da Gama and his bold successors left them.

In the year's report of the British consul for Angola, these Portuguese peculiarities stand out strongly.

Thus, from Lourenço, the capital, to Capetown, is about 1,600 miles, and the journey should take about six days. What actually happens is this. You first take a trip of 3,000 miles to Madeira, where you waway the next mail steamer, and then complete the excursion by another journey of 4,800 to Capetown.

In short, 7,800 miles have to be travelled to cover a distance of 1,600 miles. A letter between Cape Town and Lourenço takes about two months.

Here is a picture of what trade means in the favored region of Cabinda Bay, where there is a single white trader, who occupies a house of three rooms, with a shop of 20ft. by 8ft. attached. The place is stocked with purchases of some vile stuff called "rum," which are exchanged for palm kernels.

Knots of natives from the interior villages with loads of kernels bring to present themselves at the shop by six a. m., and when the trader at last makes his appearance there is a noisy crowd of kernel sellers and thirsty hangers-on.

The exchange of rum for kernels is quickly effected, and by nine in the morning the entire population may be seen lying under the shelter of the coconut palms, either stuporously drunk or noisily quarrelling.

The mingled quarrel and snoring lasts till about noon, when there is a sudden return to sobriety, and the crowd clears away to the villages to collect the means for another carousal.

On a "good" day, which is often enough Sunday, the trader at Cabinda Bay gets rid of about 100 gallons of rum. And he avers that the scene described is repeated every day in the year.

Next to rum and "civilisation," the greatest curses of West Africa are smallpox and the sleeping sickness. From this last, no case of recovery has ever been known, and so contagious is it that in the native Christian communities every communicant has a separate vessel from which to partake of the sacramental wine.

It is true there are labor arrangements which look uncommonly like slavery—but then, so there are in Rhodesia, and some are gleefully anticipating the time when Johannesburg will be no better.

AMATEUR MILITARY CRITICS.

"A. J. C." sends the following quotation to the *Spectator* on amateur military critics, which were as common in Rome as they are in London: "In every club, good heavens! I may say at every dinner table, there are gentlemen who lead armies into Macedonia, who know where our camps ought to be pitched, what posts ought to be garrisoned, at what time and by what pass the enemy's country ought to be entered, where our depôts ought to be put, by what routes, be it by sea or land, supplies ought to be conveyed, when we ought to fight and when stand off, defensive. Not only do they lay down the law as to what should be done, but if anything is done differently from what they prescribe, they will arraign the general as if he were on his trial."—(Livy, xiv., 22.)

—When all the troops under orders have arrived in South Africa, there will be 14 regiments of cavalry, 7 batteries of horse artillery, 27 field batteries, and 2 mountain battery and infantry and details, which, including the captured battalions, make a total of 89,070 British troops. The total of all arms, with naval brigades and local forces included, is 205,770.—*Morning Leader*.

From the Daily Mail, December 9.

THE BOER ARMY.

ITS STRONG POINTS AND ITS WEAKNESSES.

Is the Boer a first-class fighting man? He has yielded to a superior intelligence and, perhaps, a deeper determination at Glencoe and Elands Laagte; but in no engagement has he proved himself a contemptible foe in courage or in tactics. Nor would we British have it otherwise. It is no part of the British character to depreciate an enemy, and, for their very stubbornness in opposing us, we to-day acclaim the Zulus, the Afghans, the Afridis, and the Dervishes as first-class fighting-men. Has the Boer likewise earned a right to a place among the foemen worthy of our highest skill and most exalted courage?

The strength of the Boer forces is an unknown quantity. Shortly before the outbreak of hostilities I received a cable giving the field cornets' returns at 52,000 men capable of bearing arms. At the time, this was received by the British press as an exaggerated estimate, and it was only after careful calculation, and after consultation with the men best able to form an opinion, that I accepted its approximate accuracy. Events have proved that it was within the mark.

Three years ago the Transvaal under-secretary for foreign affairs assured me that the Boer strength was 34,000 men armed with rifles. Dr. Leyds' more recent estimate is 35,000 burghers. The number and strength of the commandoes now in the field prove that the British ante-war calculations greatly undervalued the Boer force. To-day there cannot be less than 60,000 men in arms—no mean army of sharpshooters.

I use the word sharpshooter with intention. The idea has gone abroad that the Boer can no longer shoot straight; but this applied to the bulk of the burghers is a fallacy.

Uitlander critics—and published comment has been almost wholly confined to these—have judged the Boer race from the weaklings who have drifted into Johannesburg and the mining camps along the Rand. But these are no more representative of the nation than the Hooligans of Blackfriars and Lambeth are typical of the great mass of the people throughout the length and breadth of England.

It needs a Selous, who has hunted by day with them and lain by the camp fire alongside them at night, to speak with authority of the Boers who are now opposing Great Britain on the borders of the Transvaal. The police is the last resort of the indigent Transvaaler, and the Johannesburg zarp is—alike in courage and in morality—everyway comparable to Wellington's Peninsular soldier. From them the Uitlanders have judged the race.

But the great mass of the nation is to-day, as in 1880, a people of simple habits—gazing wide-mouthed at a train and fearing the wrath of God in chastisement for a street-lamp or a telephone. One sees them upon the veld, tripping lankly on shaggy South African ponies, caring naught for anything beyond their sheep, and acknowledging no authority save God's, the veld kornet's, and the Predikant's.

These are the men on whom the defence of the republic has devolved, and the British forces have yet to measure strength with them in the field. General Joubert is not devoid of a Moltke-like indifference to human sacrifice where the exigencies of the case demand. But Sir M. is careful to offer only such lives as he can best spare. These lay in the Johannesburg contingent—the commando where clerky Hollanders bivouacked alongside weedy Boers from the Fordsburg slums—and they were sent to draw the British fire at Elands Laagte.

There was a fitness in this—that is not at first apparent. The commando was that most easily spared by Joubert, relying upon his back-country burghers for his ultimate support, and was that containing the largest number of townsmen acquainted, colloquially at least, with

instruments of modern warfare. They alone have stood by their artillery in the campaign.

It is a rule of Zulu warfare for the young impis to go first into the battle, while the men of the Old Guard stand by and criticise their conduct in the fight. Much of the Boer method has been learned from the savages upon their border. The Johannesburg contingent possessed the qualifications of indifferently material and respectful familiarity with the weapons engaged. Hence their place in the van of the Boer attack. Afterwards, at Nicholson's Nek and in circumstances better suited to their method of fighting, appeared the men of the back-country—the true Boers of the Transvaal.

The Boer degeneracy has been confined in great part to the men of the towns; the others are shepherds, hunters, and transport-riders, as in the days of their wars against the Matabele, the Xosas, and the Zulus. Game has grown pitifully less in quantity, but proportionately more difficult to take. I do not find that Boer prowess in the chase has markedly depreciated. The men of the Wakkerstroom district, for instance—those nearest to the present seat of war—take their herds for six months of every year into the highlands in search of forage and water. They live there the traditional open life of the Boer, dependent on their guns and woodcraft for their sustenance.

Some two years ago I was present at a wapsenschouwing at Roodekoppen, in the Heidelberg district, and saw there an exhibition of shooting on the part of the local commando that impressed me with the present-day marksmanship of the Boer as much as anything I have read of his prowess in the past.

There was a force of 700 Boers mounted on the customary veld ponies, each man with a remount. A canvas target was raised a mile distant, and, at the word, the whole commando thundered down upon it, riding loose-reined, guiding with their knees. Some 300 yards from the mark the men threw themselves to the ground, and, in squads of twenty, fired a hasty volley, remounted, and rode back to re-form column. The manoeuvre was executed as smartly as anything I have seen done by specially-trained troops at Bisleby or at Aldershot. As they galloped away, only a few tattered ribbons remained fluttering in the breeze. The target was no more.

In that single evolution lies the whole secret of Boer tactics—rapid advances, accurate volleys at short range, speedy retreats. The retreat is as important as the advance, and therein lies one explanation of the employment of the Johannesburg contingent at Elands Laagte. They were the only troops who could be trusted to remain beside cannon in position on a hill.

In all the engagements since Elands Laagte the cannon have been withdrawn so soon as the British advance became definitely apparent. The Boers, freed from the anchorage of their artillery, have pursued their old tactics of rapid retreats from the point of most virulent attack with compensating attacks on flank. In Carleton's case the strategy, aided by the old native trick of stampeding the enemy's horses, proved successful.

To the Boer a position has no importance save as a place to fight from. One kopje-top is the same as another kopje-top, and, if the enemy beset one overmuch, it is wise to remove to another. With cannon this manoeuvre is impossible. Men must stand by the guns or lose them. The typical Boer will lose them; and I question if any of the old commandoes will consent to give battle hampered by stationary or cumbersome artillery.

The strength of the Boers, then, lies in the back-country commandoes who will engage, maybe in considerable numbers, but who will invariably avoid heavy assault by rapid retreats, followed by re-formations on the flank of the opposing force. The weakness lies in the inability to cooperate with artillery—not that their commanders do not under-

stand its value, but that the burghers resent its immobility.

The most serious weakness of the Boer army is the scarcity of its gunners. Already there has been a terrible dearth among the artillerists, and it must be remembered that each vacancy is a permanent vacancy. Joubert can bring up commando after commando to take the place of the killed among his mounted infantry, but he has no recruits wherewith to man his depleted guns. Their efficiency is dependent upon the lives of the men who have been trained to work them. It is for that reason that the naval contingent has become, of a moment, worth a whole division of reinforcements to General White. The average Boer would as soon stand before the muzzle of a loaded cannon as take charge of it at the breach. It was with the greatest difficulty the native-born members of the Staat's Artillerie have been induced to practice with their guns at Pretoria. At no time have they been fond of their mighty and mysterious arms. In the artillery lies the chief weakness of the Boers.

The strength of the Boers, on the other hand, lies in the presence at their head of all the old leaders save Nicolaas Smit, dead in 1896, and J. H. M. Koch, killed at Elands Laagte. The Boer brain is still intact.

DOUGLAS STORY.

THE MODDER RIVER BATTLE.

Modder River, November 29.—Lord Methuen left Enslin with the knowledge that another and much more severe battle would have to be fought at Modder River. We rested on Monday night a few miles from the river, but the entire force was on the march again before dawn yesterday—one brigade far on the right and another well on the left. Soon after five o'clock we came into touch with the enemy, and our artillery opened fire upon them at long range, while the naval contingent came into action with their guns from the armoured train, which accompanied the advance.

After an hour and a half shelling, the 9th Lancers and the Mounted Infantry were sent forward to reconnoitre the enemy's positions on the river bank. They found the Boers in a farm, hotel grounds, and pleasure gardens, but apparently not in force. All the buildings were surrounded by low walls, behind which hundreds of Boer marksmen could have lain concealed. General Pole Carew's brigade on the left were sent forward to make a feint attack in the hope that they would draw the enemy away while the Guards brigade forced the passage of the river. All this time a terrific artillery and rifle fire was in progress.

About nine o'clock the Lancers became engaged with the enemy, and as they retired the Guards brigade were pushed forward to the buildings already mentioned. Little signs of life could be seen until the Guards had got within 150 yards of the low walls. Then a murderous and appalling fire was opened upon our men. The walls, the farm, and the out-buildings vomited continuous torrents of lead. It was practically an ambush. The Grenadiers, the leading regiment, appeared almost to be cleared off the ground by the storm of bullets.

The Guards fell back and took what cover they could, and all the time the Boers played upon them with several Hotchkiss guns, which however, were fortunately fired too high to do much execution. The fire from one of the Boer machine guns split and disabled the Maxim belonging to the Scots Guards.

By this time the artillery had been brought against the hotel and farm buildings. Scores of shells went right through the buildings, and the walls were soon riddled. At one time the farm-house was on fire, but through it all the Boers held to their positions with grim tenacity, which was little less than marvellous. Several attempts had already been made to get across the river, but it was not until late in the afternoon that part of Pole Carew's brigade managed to cross far down on the left. Then the enemy retired upon their entrenchments to the north, and the battle was practically won.

LATER.—Our staff estimates that the enemy's loss in yesterday's fierce fight was at least 400 killed and wounded. Ours cannot be less, for the battle was the most prolonged and desperate of the campaign so far. Two train-loads of wounded have been sent south to-day.

The stubborn way in which the Boers stuck to their positions cannot be too highly praised. It took many hours of splendid artillery work on our side to compel them to clear out. Our gunners were decidedly superior to the Boer artillerists, and our victory is largely due to them. Our losses were chiefly incurred in the rushes of the infantry. Those rushes in each case led our men into a zone of fearful fire; but they were absolutely necessary for the work that had to be done.

Our fellows suffered terribly from the extreme heat of the day, the lack of water to drink, and the inevitable fatigue of the incessant movement. The severest fighting was between eight and nine o'clock. The Boers have retired upon Spytfontein, where another severe engagement is imminent.—Central News.

From the Buenos Aires Herald, Jan. 5.

OPPRESSIVE TAXATION.

There are no indications whatever to show that there is either thought or care on the part of the small governing class in this country about the injustice and oppressiveness of taxation as it now exists. The laws concerning taxation and public revenue have been made from time to time, mainly by the non-commercial and non-industrial class and they have so framed them as to leave themselves and their class free from onerous taxation, while on the other hand they have piled taxes upon labor and commerce with the most reckless disregard of all equity or justice.

Those who have had in hand the legislation of the country have resorted to every possible device to extort money from the workers of the country. Instead of taxing property pro rata for the support of the government they have taxed activity and enterprise to such an extent as to well-nigh crush it in the beginning of its development. Those who are interested in industrial pursuits have started an organ to defend their interests, but they seem to forget that the trouble is mainly with the iniquitous legislation concerning taxation and the manner of raising public revenue. The one great thing that the government requires is activity and enterprise and therefore both should be encouraged. Here it has been our policy to persecute both so as to make them slow of development. No man can even indicate his intention to do anything, without paying for the privilege. He cannot enter into a contract for elements of production that he must not first satisfy the tax gatherer. He cannot buy tools with which to till the soil, that he does not have first to contribute to the insatiable demands of taxation. He cannot move his stock, or furniture, or buy a pound of meat, nor a bag of potatoes, that he does not have to pay more taxes than the millionaire who has hundreds of thousands of stock roaming over illimitable plains.

He cannot open a shop, put out a sign, sign a contract, give a receipt that he does not first have to give to this monster of taxation. There is no form of injustice which is not common in the system of taxation. There is nothing more cruel and unjust than the "Sisa" tax which falls as heavily on the laborer as such an extent that one may not bring into the city a cabbage, or bag of potatoes, that this illegal tax is not extorted. There is and can be no question that it is in direct violation of the constitutional guarantees of free transit, and there is not a reputable lawyer in the country who will sustain its legality. The farmer cannot move his produce to the market, that he is not made first of all to pay an illegal tax on the transit thereof. The farmer who harvests his wheat cannot do so until he has paid a tax for privilege of using his own harvesting machine on his own ground. There is not an item in activity that is not taxed, and on the other hand the inactive property of the country is not taxed. A man may have a million head of cattle and if only he will not sell or move them, he need not pay as much tax on them for the support of the government as a charcoal dealer or boot black pays for the privilege of trying to find customers and work.

These are but suggestions of inequalities which run all through our system of raising public revenue. They open a wide field for reform for which there are no advocates among the various political rings. There is no one who cares for any of these things and they will not be changed until the common people compel it. Some day the man who works will not tolerate such injustice. He will not always be docile while being robbed as he is robbed now. The farmer will not always be willing to pay the part which belongs to the miserly millionaire, and he will find a way to convince the partizan that a change is desirable; in the meantime there is nothing which so retards the development of the country as this iniquitous and cruel system of taxation.

THE MOST POWERFUL GUN KNOWN.

England's latest gun is the most powerful weapon in the world. It will ensure the supremacy of Great Britain over the seas for many years to come. It is known as the 12 inch steel and wire gun, weighs 50 tons, is 41 feet long, and has a muzzle velocity of 2,367 feet per second. The projectile weighs 850 lbs., the bursting charge being 83 lbs., and the firing charge 167 1/2 lbs. cordite. The Admiralty have ordered 450 of these guns, at a cost of £10,000. Of these 150 have been completed, and 300 are still in the hands of the contractors. Each man-of-war will carry four of these formidable weapons, and when the navy is supplied they will be issued to forts on sea fronts. The new gun will be the heaviest in the service, and will take the place of the 110 ton, 100 ton, and 80 ton guns, of which no more are to be made. The new gun, mounted on the heights of Dover, could drop a shell on the shores of France. No accuracy of aim could, of course, be obtained or maintained at this long distance, the effective range being 16,000 yards, or between nine and ten miles.—Exchange.

TELEGRAMS OF THE WEEK

OUR OWN SPECIAL SERVICE

LONDON

LONDON, 10TH JANUARY, 5.40 a. m.

The situation in South Africa, with respect to all the British forces in the field, remains unchanged. No definite news has been received either from Ladysmith or Colesberg, where the fighting has lately been pressed with unusual determination on both sides.

In the battle near Colesberg on Saturday last, the losses of the Suffolk regiment were heavier than at first reported. According to later advices their losses comprise 27 killed, 21 wounded and 113 missing.

The subsequent movements of General J. D. D. French are not known, but it is presumed that he has changed his plans so that he may not now be in a position to report frequently.

LONDON, 11TH JANUARY, 5.30 a. m.

Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar and General Lord Kitchener of Khartoum, with their respective staffs, have arrived at Capetown.

No news of importance have been received from Natal, either from Ladysmith or from General Buller's headquarters. Various rumors are current of renewed fighting, but they lack confirmation.

Reports are wanting also from the columns of General Lord Methuen and General W. F. Gatacre where the situation appears to be unchanged.

A dispatch from General J. D. D. French's column at Colesberg, however, reports the capture of five Horse Guards, who were out apparently on a reconnoitering expedition.

Further large reinforcements of all branches of the service are reported to have arrived at Capetown, and will be hurried to the front as quickly as possible.

LONDON, 12TH JANUARY, 5.40 a. m.

According to latest advices the estimated losses of the British garrison at Ladysmith in the battle of Saturday last were between 800 and 900 men.

The losses of the Boers in the same battle are estimated to have been between 2,000 and 3,000.

The Portuguese authorities of Lourenco Marques have decided to refuse permission to anyone to cross Portuguese territory into the Transvaal without a special permit from the governor.

No news of importance have been received from the several centres of field operations.

LONDON, 13TH JANUARY, 5 a. m.

According to a telegram from General Sir Redvers Buller from Springfield (about 15 miles west of Colenso) on January 11th, he had taken possession of the south bank of the Tugela river at Potgieter's Drift and had seized the bridge at that point.

The river is in flood and the enemy's forces are strongly entrenched four and a half miles to the north.

From official reports of the fighting at Ladysmith last week the British lost 13 officers killed and 28 wounded, and 135 men killed and 244 wounded. Among the killed are Earl Ava and Lieut. Col. Dick Cunyngnam.

Reinforcements have been sent to the assistance of General Sir W. F. Gatacre.

There is a wave of hostile criticism here at the present moment in regard to the tactics of General Lord Methuen at the battle of Magersfontein, followed by so prolonged an inactivity after the reverse which he suffered.

No news have transpired in regard to the columns under the command of Generals Methuen and French.

LONDON, 15TH JANUARY, 5.25 a. m.

No further official news have been received from the column operating under the command of General Sir Redvers Buller to the west of Colenso, but it is reported that a column of 11,000 men under the command of General Sir Charles Warren is advancing on the other flank of the enemy in the direction of Weenan.

Colonels Babington and Pilcher are reported to have reconnoitered twenty-five miles of territory in the Orange Free State south of Jacobsdal without encountering opposition.

Advices from Rensburg state that General J. D. D. French has seized a position

south-east of Colesberg where the only exit remains to the Boers in the direction of Norvals. Perpetual skirmishing is going on between the two hostile forces.

LONDON, 16TH JANUARY, 5.35 a. m.

The situation in South Africa remains unchanged so far as published advices go. The greatest secrecy is being maintained in regard to military plans and movements.

It is stated that General Sir Redvers Buller has detached from Chieveley a mounted flying column with instructions to march through Zululand.

It is announced that Major-General Sir Frederick Carrington is going to South Africa.

A new siege train is also to be sent to the front as speedily as possible.

Advices from Boer sources are to the effect that President Kruger has issued a proclamation calling upon all Boers and Free Staters to appear at the front with all possible dispatch, and appealing to them for greater energy in the prosecution of the war.

SUMMARY FROM DAILY PRESS

Great Britain.

JAN. 9.—Reports are again current that Gen. Joubert has been seriously injured. This time he is said to have fallen from his horse, receiving spinal injuries which will incapacitate him from further service.—The war office has received advices of more serious losses of the Suffolk regiment at Colesberg than at first reported. These are: Col. Watson, 3 lieutenants and 23 soldiers killed, 22 men wounded, and 6 officers and 107 soldiers prisoners.—Another telegram says Gen. French's losses from the 1st to the 6th inst. aggregated 217 men.—The embarkation of the 8th division is being hurried forward.—Advices have been published of the apprehension in England of two large guns, 6 machine guns and a large quantity of provisions destined for the Boers. It is said that British ships are carrying contraband of war to the enemy. To prevent this the government has decided to inspect all ships before their leaving British ports.—The war office has ordered 12 batteries of field guns to be made ready for embarkation.

JAN. 10.—The war office has received a telegram from Gen. Buller stating that the Boer losses at Ladysmith were 4 killed and 15 wounded (which is absurd). Another statement says one commando alone lost 150 men.—On Saturday last Gen. Clerj is reported to have made a demonstration to draw the Boers away from Ladysmith, but failed.—Advices received of Lord Roberts' arrival at Capetown.—In London 400 tailors at the war department have struck and 6,000 more are ready to follow their example.—The Daily Mail hears that one of the commanding generals in South Africa is to be substituted.—It is said that Germany has sent two protests to the British government against the seizure of German steamers.—The Standard says the Russian government has given satisfactory explanations to Great Britain about the movement of troops on the Afghan frontier.

JAN. 11.—It is reported that parliament will be convened for the 30th inst.—Reports are current that Chamberlain will retire from the ministry.—An official proclamation to-day announces that food is not to be considered contraband of war.—The announcement yesterday by the Daily Mail that one of the division commanders in the field is to be relieved, is officially confirmed. Gen. Methuen is to be relieved of the command of the 1st division.—Telegrams from Modder River state that the British and Boer forces are bombarding each other.—At Ladysmith the Boers reopened fire on the town and camp on Monday.—After the loss of the Suffolks Gen. French has suspended operations, standing on the defensive.—The Channel squadron has been ordered to proceed to Gibraltar on the 31st inst.

JAN. 12.—Lord Roberts has assumed supreme command in South Africa.—The war office is advised that Gen. Buller has advanced to the Tugela River at Potgieter's Drift, the Boers being entrenched 4 miles north of that point.—Official reports of the British losses at Ladysmith on Saturday give:—killed, officers 13, men 135; wounded, officers 27, men 244. (A Pitz telegram, also said to be based on official reports, adds 800 prisoners to the British losses.)—A Pitz telegram says that Gen. Methuen's recall and his substitution by Gen. Sir Charles Warren, is due to a fall from his horse some days ago which injured his spine and his mental faculties. This accident was mistakenly attributed to Gen. Joubert, who is perfectly well.—A Pitz telegram says the Times and Globe correspondents report that there is indiscipline and disorganization in every camp, and disorderly scenes occur because of the panic caused by repeated reverses. This is due, in their opinion, to the hastily organized and untrained character of the troops.

JAN. 13.—Gen. Macdonald has been appointed to substitute Gen. Methuen in the command of the 1st division.—Pretoria advices state that President Kruger has made a hasty visit to Bloemfontein, and it is surmised that

his object is to hasten an attack on Gen. Methuen's division.—Advices from Ladysmith state that among the killed on the Boers side in the recent fight, was Gen. Villiers.—Pretoria advices state that the British had been repelled at Colesberg and had retired in the direction of Belmont.—The City of London volunteer corps embarks for South Africa tomorrow.—At the approaching opening of parliament, it is said Sir Charles Dilke will present a motion censuring the government for entering upon a war without having made the indispensable preparations for it.

JAN. 14.—Havas advices state that a rumor was current in London that Gen. Buller had again been defeated (Stock exchange reports, of course).—A Durban press telegram dated 12th says that Gen. Warren would leave the Frere encampment that evening to co-operate with Gen. Buller. It was currently stated that a great battle had been begun simultaneously at three points.—A Capetown telegram says that Gen. French had succeeded in cutting off the Boers' retreat from Colesberg, but that the Boer artillery had obliged the British guns to withdraw out of range.—At Brisbane 160 men with 175 horses had embarked for Capetown.—In London, at St. Paul's, Canon Scott denounced the war against the Transvaal. Rev. Mr. Hughes and other clergymen had also preached similar discourses.

JAN. 15.—Meagre advices from Natal state that Gen. Warren has engaged the Boers at Springfield.—The Boers are reported to have evacuated Colenso and Grobler's Kloof.—One Capetown telegram of the 11th says that Gen. Warren had secured a strong position on the Tugela, while another of the 12th says he had crossed that river.—A Daily Graphic dispatch of the 4th (14th?) says the Boers have mounted 32 more guns than Ladysmith, while a Standard telegram says they are fortifying strong positions north-east of that place.—The latest official advices from Gen. French are to the effect that he is maintaining his primitive positions. Press reports state that he had prevented the Boers from occupying Slingersfontein where they would be able to cut Gen. French's communications.—It is reported from Modder River that a body of scouts had traversed a large district in the western part of the Free State, and report it well suited to cavalry operations.—Gen. Kitchener is reported to have completed his plans for invading the Boer republics and will leave Capetown for the front some time this week.—3,000 men are embarking to-day at Southampton.—The reaction against the conservatives is increasing daily, and it is said the liberals, liberal-unionists, radicals and home-rulers are uniting for this purpose.

United States.

JAN. 9.—The German ambassador denies the reports current that Germany is increasing her fleet to antagonize American influence in South America.—The French cruiser "Cecille" has arrived at San Domingo.

JAN. 10.—Various encounters with scattered bands of Tagalos are reported from the Philippines, resulting in losses to both sides. It is believed the American officials will encounter great difficulty in reducing these armed bands to submission.—The existence of bubonic pest at Manila has been officially announced.

JAN. 12.—The government has issued orders that four war vessels shall sail at once for South Africa.

JAN. 13.—A project has been submitted to the secretary of state for the establishment of a line of steamers between New York and Brazilian ports.

JAN. 14.—Telegrams from San Domingo state that the conflict with France has been settled by common accord.—It is said that the establishment of a line of steamers to Brazil has been decided.

Spain.

JAN. 12.—A party of smugglers has been captured in Bisaya. It was discovered that they had 292 rifles and 10,000 cartridges destined for the carlists.

JAN. 13.—An epidemic of influenza has broken out in Barcelona.

France.

JAN. 9.—The French cabinet has resolved to maintain the occupation of Insalah.—The chambers re-elected presiding officers to-day favorable to the government.

JAN. 11.—The government has resolved to send troops to San Domingo, because of the agitation reigning there against France.

JAN. 15.—The Eclair announces that a secret treaty has been made between France and Abyssinia.—The Flamand mission, which has occupied Insalah in the Touat oasis, has had a battle with 1,300 Touaregs, and completely defeated them.

Germany.

JAN. 10.—The opening session of the reichstag occurred to-day. Various interpellations were addressed to the government relative to the seizure of German steamers by British cruisers.—The Emperor William was to-day present at the launching of the new merchant steamer "Deutschland" at Sietlin. On this occasion Count von Blow spoke of the necessity of possessing a powerful navy.

JAN. 12.—The government has forbidden the Krupp Works to sell guns to Great Britain and the Transvaal.

JAN. 13.—The press is commending the order forbidding the Krupp Works to sell guns to the South African belligerents.

Portugal.

JAN. 14.—There was neither a new case nor a death of bubonic pest in Oporto last week.

GENERAL HECTOR MACDONALD.

Brigadier-General Hector Macdonald's splendid career in the army constitutes a military romance in contemporary real life. A private soldier 29 years ago, he has risen higher in the service, and at an earlier age, than most men of his grade who started life with a commission, backed by the advantage of the best military education.

He is a native of Ross-shire, and in 1868, according to his old commander, Sir Evelyn Wood, who ought to know, in 1870 according to the Duke of Atholl, who probably spoke upon more information, he enlisted among the Gordons as a bravo Scotch lad of 17.

Before this he had made an essay in civil employment, and had sustained his first defeat. The story goes that he was apprenticed to a draper in a small way of business, and found the calling little to his taste. He was one day dispatched to do some cutting up, and the master coming after some time to inspect, expressed scant satisfaction with what he saw. "Have you cut it with a spade?" he asked in severe irony. "No; I did it with a shovel" retorted the young man, and bolting from the place, he ran all the way to the barracks, which he may be said to have never since left. That draper, assuming the story to be true, is probably the only antagonist who ever saw Hector Macdonald retreat at the double.

The first nine years of his life as a soldier were humdrum enough. It was the Afghan war of 1879 that placed him with his feet firmly planted on fortune's ladder. He entered the war with the Gordons as an active young sergeant of 26. He emerged from it with at least two brilliant records in the dispatches, and with the rank of second lieutenant in his own famous regiment.

Early in the war his quality was put to a trying test. He was in command of a hill blockhouse, with a small detachment of Gordons and native troops. Hither was brought a rumor that an Afghan force had planned an ambush to catch Lord Roberts and his staff, who were moving with an escort of Lancers and Punjau cavalry. After satisfying himself through native scouts that the rumor was well-founded, Macdonald promptly marched to the threatened point, where he found the Afghans posted on high ground commanding the road. They greatly outnumbered his little party, but that was neither here nor there.

Across the river and up the hill went the Gordons, closed with the enemy at the bayonet's point, and drove them off. When the action was over 30 of the Afghans lay on the ground. For this important service Macdonald won his first mention in dispatches, Lord Roberts paying warm tribute to his "coolness, judgment, and gallantry."

At the engagement of Charasiah he was again mentioned in dispatches, took part in all the operations around Cabul, in the Midian expedition, accompanied Lord Roberts in the famous flank march to Candahar, and after the victory before the town received his commission, almost on the field of battle. For this campaign he wears the medal with three clasps, and the bronze decoration.

The next phase of the young officer's experience was in the trying but wholesome school of adversity. Returning from India in 1881, the Gordons were stopped at the Cape to aid in suppressing the Boer rising, and at Majuba Hill Lieut. Macdonald was compelled to surrender his sword after beholding his commander, Sir George Colley, fall upon the field. But he surrendered it with the complete respect of his victorious enemy. "This is a brave man," said one of the Boer chiefs as he knocked down a rifle levelled against the young Scotsman.

All the rest of Col. Hector Macdonald's fighting was with the case with the brilliant, ill-fated Wauchope, whom he succeeds, has been done in the Sudan.

He was in the Nile expedition under Lord Wolseley in 1885; in the Suakin expedition of 1888, where his conduct at the battle of Gemazani once more secured him dispatch mention. A year later, he again won this honor in the battle of Toski.

In 1891, he fought at Tokar, served under Kitchener for the first time as brigadier in the Dongola expedition of 1896; and for the second time at Abu Hamed in 1897. During both these campaigns, his name figured prominently in the dispatches.

Lieut.-Col. Macdonald's splendid services during the Omdurman campaign of 1898, are too recent to need recalling. They were rewarded with the thanks of Parliament, he was made a colonel, became aide-de-camp to the Queen, and at the close of his furlough in England received the command of a brigade in India.

Scotland is rightly and mightily proud of Colonel Hector Macdonald. Last May he was entertained to dinner by his countrymen in London, with the Premier Duke of Scotland in the chair, and in the presence of a brilliant assemblage of the most distinguished generals in the army, was presented by the noble chairman with a sword of honor—the gift of Scotland to her valiant soldier.

—We have received the pair of President Kruger's old boots. There seems to be no doubt about their authenticity. They were forwarded to England by Mr. Grier Evans, manager of the government tannery at Pretoria. In connection with the tannery Mr. Evans keeps a boot shop. "While I was in the shop one day," writes Mr. Evans, "the President came in, bought a pair of boots, and left these." The boots will duly appear as collecting-boxes at the bazaar arranged on Friday next at Willis's Rooms.—Daily Mail, Dec. 16.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

A. J. LAMOURÉUX, Editor and Proprietor

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 16th, 1900.

The strike which broke out yesterday among the drivers of public vehicles in this city, ought to be a convincing proof to the municipal and police authorities that they have carried their vexatious interference with the citizen just a step too far. It may be that these drivers are too often negligent and reckless and that it is necessary to exercise a stronger control over them, but surely a much better way could be found than that of treating them as criminals, of imposing a highly vexatious code of regulations in regard to registrations, examinations and service, and then requiring them to pay a heavy fee for the formality. They earn little more than starvation wages, and it is not easy, even in the best of times, for them to pay a registration fee of 20\$, to say nothing of the loss of time compelled by the formalities. We do not sympathize with the acts of violence which may have occurred, but we believe that at the outset the authorities were wrong and that the men have just cause for complaint. And, in our opinion, it is time for the people to make a stand against these trespasses upon personal rights. If a cart-driver must be registered at the police office, then the proposal to register our servants will come next, and then, before we know where we are, we shall have the policeman settled permanently within our doors. It is well to resist the invasion at the outset. If public companies were held responsible for the acts of their employes there would to-day be no need of police interference, and all the other questions could easily be settled in as simple a manner.

The exchange of visits between the presidents of Argentina and Brazil is unquestionably right and proper, and we may assume that good results will follow. Whatever tends to develop a neighborly sympathy and closer relationship must be mutually beneficial. These two countries are next door neighbors, their productions are of a character to promote mutually a beneficial trade, and there are as yet no political rivalries between them which can interfere with good relationship. A policy tending to strengthen friendship between the two countries and to promote an exchange of products, therefore, is in every sense worthy of commendation and encouragement. But does this warrant the display which has been made and the expense which has been incurred? Neither country is in a position to waste money; in fact, both are in a very bad financial condition and have been obliged to solicit concessions

from their creditors. And yet President Roca required three war vessels to accompany him, a very considerable suite of attendants, and spent money like a prince. And for his entertainment here the expenditure of over a thousand contos is acknowledged, while much more was spent and charged to regular accounts. A moderate estimate of the expense of this visit would be three thousand contos. And for the return call, for which preparations are being made already, probably double that amount will be expended, for the Argentines are apparently determined not to be outdone in the magnificence of the entertainment. Extensive changes are being made in the ironclad which is to convey President Campos Salles to Buenos Aires, and two other war vessels will later on be fitted out to accompany him. Money will be expended like water on both sides, princely entertainments will be given, and an immense amount of enthusiasm will be displayed. But is all this expense warranted, and can either country afford it? In our opinion there is but one response, and that is an emphatic No! The late Emperor of Brazil was accustomed to travel abroad in a merchant steamer and with a very modest retinue. The President of the United States travels about his own country very much like an ordinary private citizen. Queen Victoria goes abroad without display and without occasioning expensive demonstrations. And when the crowned heads of Europe do a little visiting, there may be a formal welcome, a military review and a banquet—and that is all. It is apparently left to the Shah of Persia and a South-American republican President to make the money fly when they go abroad visiting. And it is the embarrassed debtor who throws away his money on a brilliant series of entertainments, and then cynically defers the payment of current authorized expenditures. There is neither honor nor dignity in such a procedure, and there can be no adequate compensation. It was a princely thing to do for President Roca to give 50,000 milreis to the poor of this city, but it was a foolish thing to do as well. If he gave from his own private pocket, then he has a right to say it is none of our business; but if he gave from the Argentine taxpayer's pocket, then he did a dishonest and illegal act—one which we hope President Campos Salles will not try to emulate. Taxation is too heavy in both countries to have its proceeds thrown away in this manner. It is time that the executives of these republics were made to see that they are not irresponsible sovereigns and that the public revenues are not royal perquisites, to be used as they please. They should be impressed with the fact that they are public servants and custodians of the public revenues. To spend one cent beyond an appropriation is illegal, and to use one cent without an appropriation is criminal. And the legislators of both countries should be taught that blank credits for such purposes are distinct breaches of faith between themselves and their constituents.

LAST YEAR'S BUDGET.

A year ago the government's partisans were jubilant over the budget voted by congress for 1899. In that budget the revenue was estimated at 328,914,000\$ in currency and 22,200,000\$ in gold, making a total of 351,114,000\$. The appropriations voted amounted to 328,094,557\$86 and it was consequently expected that the year would close with a balance of 23,019,442\$614, which, it was asserted, would be increased by the premium on the gold to 75,744,442\$614.

In commenting at the time on this budget we quoted Senator Otteica's statement that the estimate of revenue was at least 35,000,000\$ too high. In the year that has since elapsed that statement has been shown to be perfectly correct, for even the government's partisans are now estimating the actual revenue for last year at 292,000,000\$ in currency and 18,500,000\$ in

gold, making a total of 310,500,000\$, or 40,614,000\$ less than the estimate in the budget.

They are still claiming a balance, but their tone is by no means confident. They are doubtless aware of the general tendency to exceed the appropriations and there is certainly no good reason to suppose that in this respect the year that has just closed has been different from those that preceded it.

The government's balance on account current at the Banco da Republica amounted at the end of last year to only 22,280,185\$082 and the government owed the bank for sundry accounts 18,820,239\$053. At the national treasury, according to the *Noticia*, there was a cash balance of 10,000,000\$, but, although the law requires the redemption of treasury bills in the year in which they are issued, there were still outstanding, according to the same journal, such bills to the amount of 5,000,000\$.

It is a well known fact that in the first quarter of every year large payments on account of the previous year have to be made and it is also known that many accounts are not settled until several years afterwards. It does not seem probable that the unexpended revenue for 1899 will be sufficient to make those payments and we consequently venture to predict that full returns will show that the year has closed with a deficit instead of the expected balance of 75,744,442\$614.

Thus, if our surmise is correct, the government has failed to profit by the temporary relief afforded by the suspension of payment of interest on its foreign debt, of the yearly redemption of a certain number of its bonds and of payment of guaranteed interest on foreign capital invested in Brazil. What, then, will be the result when, after having increased its burden with the amount of the funding loan and depleted the resources of the country with exorbitant taxation, it is required to resume the performance of its obligations?

A BUENOS AIRES telegram of the 11th says the Argentine government has received six millions sterling from abroad, the proceeds of a loan recently raised. We can not understand how foreign financial houses can be induced to make further loans where they know good faith is not observed and where the money is sure to be thrown away. The old corrupt ring is again in the saddle down there and nothing but shame and disaster will result. To loan money to such parties is to throw it away. The Argentine government may talk of making economies, but where one is made a new expenditure will surely be found. There is no sincerity in the men who are talking economy, and it is idle to expect them to carry it into effect honestly.

In talking over the situation with an old merchant a few days ago, he expressed an opinion that the rise in exchange which we are experiencing is a perfectly natural result of the situation. He assured us that there is little or no speculation behind it, and the two principal causes have been the necessity which two banks are under of drawing in a recent heavy failure, and the great reduction in remittances by importers, whose business has been so heavily reduced by hard times and the competition of national industries. "It is natural that exchange should go up," he insisted, "and I see no reason why it should not go to 9d."

"AND there is another point," he added, "which I think is generally overlooked. Business is now done very largely with native capital. These factories are driving imports out of the market, and they are operated very largely with native capital. Just note what an amount is invested in hat factories, and match factories, and other industries. And now the taxes are falling upon the natives, as well as upon the foreign importers, and they are compelled to advance very large sums in stamp taxes alone. I see by *The Rio News* that one match factory alone paid over a thousand contos for stamps last year, and that is a pretty large sum to tie up in taxes. It is making radical changes in trade, and it is important, in my opinion, to note that the capital invested is now being changed to native hands, and that the taxes are falling upon them." And the comment is certainly worthy of careful consideration. More Brazilian capital is certainly employed in trade and industry, and the risks therefore are falling more largely upon native shoulders. With the withdrawal of foreign capital, even very slowly, a shrinkage in commercial enterprise must result, and we shall then have to face new difficulties of a still more serious character.

□ In speaking of cruel and unjust taxes the Buenos Aires *Harold* says of the many there is none more cruel and unjust than that which is levied on the introduction of food into our cities and towns. And our contemporary might have gone one step further and condemned all taxes levied on foods essential to the maintenance of life. The tax which increases the cost of necessary food to poor people, is an instrument of torture. Worse than that, it is deliberate national suicide. A badly nourished people can not hold their own in the race of life, and they must necessarily fall behind. When, therefore, a government imposes heavy taxes on food it contributes to the physical decadence of its people and to the weakening of the nation. Still further, a badly nourished people are always exposed to the ironclads of epidemic diseases and are unable to resist them. Why is it that India is so frequently overrun by plagues? And why is it that Italy suffers so severely from epidemic visitations? There is more in the question of cheap food supplies than legislators think, and they should know that when they make food dear through the imposition of heavy taxes they are committing the worst crime that the human mind can conceive.

THERE is no country in the world whose vital interests are more opposed to the consideration of foodstuffs as contraband of war, than Great Britain. The announcement of the 11th, therefore, that the British government does not consider foodstuffs as contraband of war, is only what we have expected all along. The wish to deprive the Boers of their food supplies is no more than natural, but to seize neutral vessels and hold their cargoes on this plea would establish a precedent which would prejudice Great Britain far more than the passing advantage which she might derive from the stoppage of the Boers' food supplies at the present moment. Great Britain is so dependent upon the outside world literally for her daily bread, that she could not afford to have food declared contraband of war. In case of war with one or more strong naval powers she might find herself confronted with starvation at home as well as with an enemy abroad. Under such circumstances the only policy that Great Britain can safely follow is that of not considering food supplies as contraband of war, and in supporting the contention by allowing such articles to pass even when used by an enemy.

THE STRIKE.

Early yesterday morning the tram drivers, coachmen, cartmen and all drivers of vehicles down to the truck and push-cart, went out on a strike against the vexatious regulations which the police were about to enforce upon them. The city presented a very singular appearance in the morning. There were no trams running, except a few electric trams between the city and Largo do Machado; there was not a carriage, nor cart, nor trolley, nor truck anywhere in the streets. The absence of the usual rumble and noise was strikingly noticeable and reminded one of the old-fashioned Good Friday observances.

At first the strikers took a pacific attitude, but later on, when efforts were made to run the trams, or bring out a cart, they began to employ violence, and some damage was done in various parts of the city. The police and regulars and firemen were then called into service, and it was a common thing to see soldiers with carbines on each electric tram, and mounted men guarding garbage carts pushed through the streets by Italians. Among the strikers were the hearse-drivers of the Empresa Funeraria, and we saw a hearse driven by a fireman and guarded by soldiers with loaded rifles. The mails were conveyed to the railway station by the same drivers and guards.

The strikers had been told that they would have to be photographed, to pay indemnities to persons run over, and have to pay heavy registration fees. Since then the chief of police has announced that the photograph and indemnity are not required. Still the regulation is a complicated and vexatious one, and the men are right in resisting it. It places them more completely under the thumb of the police than are the criminals of this city. Furthermore, the requirements are so many and minute that it is very doubtful whether the police could carry them into effect with its present staff, for it must be remembered that there are many thousands of drivers, cartmen, etc. in Rio de Janeiro.

There was of course much embarrassment to business men living in the suburbs, who were compelled to walk in, and as it was a very hot day, the exercise was not appreciated. Eight trams of the Botanical Garden Co. were upset, and some damage was done to carts and carriages. Fortunately a heavy rain-storm came in the evening, and this prevented the rioting which was feared.

To-day the situation is somewhat worse. The Carris Urbanos Co. is sending out a few trams, each one guarded by a soldier with loaded rifle. A few carts are to be seen also, each one heavily guarded. And there are reports current of conflicts at various points which have resulted in deaths and injuries.

How long the trouble will continue, it is difficult to conjecture, as the strikers are determined and the authorities obdurate. Fears are expressed that political complications may result, which might easily lead to lamentable consequences.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

—The choice of Dr. Severino Vieira as the republican candidate for the governorship of Bahia is said to have created great enthusiasm throughout that state.

—A telegram from Pará on the 10th inst. announced the death of Major General Frederico Solon de Sampaio Ribeiro, commandant of the 1st military district.

—On last Saturday there were only three patients at the Santos plague hospital. It was expected that they would soon be discharged and the hospital closed.

—In view of the apparent impossibility of having free elections, some of the journals in the state of Rio de Janeiro are advising a resort to arms. This is a natural result.

—At Juiz de Fora on the 27th inst. the Centro da Lavoura will cause mass to be said for the persons killed in the political disturbances at Bom Sucesso and Carangola.

—Yellow-fever has unfortunately appeared at Sorocaba, São Paulo. The *República* of the 6th inst. notes the appearance of two new cases, of two deaths and two cases under treatment in the hospital.

—The sanitary officials of São Paulo are proposing to establish a carrier-pigeon service with localities having no telegraph line. We are inclined to believe that the proposition will hardly prove a success.

—When President Campos Sales arrived at Petropolis on the 11th inst., where he is to reside during the hot season, he was met at the station by a detachment of cavalry, which escorted him to his residence.

—The people of Sorocaba are rejoicing over the approaching completion of their electric light plant. Experimental trials have already been made, and it is expected that in a very short time the light will be in regular use.

—There was another new case of bubonic pest in São Paulo last week, and we do not know how many suspected cases. But we do not hear that the people are very much alarmed about it. The excitement is restricted principally to the salaried sanitary officials.

—The disinfecting establishment at Raiz de Serra, on the Petropolis road, is nearly completed, the oven being formally tested yesterday. Should our Petropolis friends have to undergo a daily disinfection, it will probably compel some of them to abandon Petropolis altogether.

—The governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro has issued a decree postponing to March 1 the meeting of the legislature, which he had convened for the 15th inst. for the purpose of taking action on his veto of the budget for 1900 voted by the legislature and promulgated by its president.

—Bahia telegrams of the 11th inst. state that rains have fallen at various points in the interior of that state. The seca had returned and was causing great hardships to the people but it is now hoped that the reappearance of rains will put an end to the terrible drought and famine which have caused so much suffering in that state.

—The state of Minas Geraes is taking steps to prevent the bubonic pest from invading its territory. But it will be a waste of time and money. São Paulo took precautions against Santos, and Rio took precaution against both—and with what effect? A little rational sanitation and physical development will be worth far more than all the precautions usually taken.

—Conflicts have again broken out in Itá, São Paulo, between the two local political cliques, called the «maragatos» and «jaguinhos.» On the evening of the 14th a group of turbulent *maços* made a disturbance and while making a noisy demonstration in front of the residence of Sr. Francisco Pereira they were suddenly fired upon, three of them being killed and 17 wounded. These political conflicts seem to be as deadly as some of the battles in South Africa.

—A telegram from Pará says that the adventurer Galvez, who is master of the Acre district, is seizing the rubber steamers on that river. He has seized the steam launch «Garantia da Amazonia» and has armed it with two rapid-firing guns. He has likewise stretched a cable across the river to impede the passage of steamers. Of the Bolivian expedition of 500 men sent against him, only 50 are said to have arrived at their destination, and these completely exhausted.

—The minister of finance should now don his laurels. Civil war has at last broken out in Mato Grosso. A Porto Alegre telegram of the 11th says that news has been received through a passenger just arrived from Mato Grosso that a battle occurred about the middle of December near the Aquissama river between a force of 600 insurgents under Col. Mascarenhas, and a force of 800 state police under Col. Ribeiro Miranda. The result was indecisive, both sides suffering severe losses.

—It was reported that Col. Mascarenhas had increased his force to 1,000 men and was preparing to march on the capital, Cuyabá.

RAILROAD NOTES

—There is an attempt to organize a company for building a railway connecting the states of S. Paulo and Bahia. It will begin at the station of Conquista on the Mogyana road and terminate at Burity on the Paracatu river, and its length will be about 500 kilometres.

—The governor of São Paulo, accompanied by members of his cabinet and others, visited on the 11th inst. the works of the São Paulo Railway Co. and Empresa Constructora at the Alto da Serra. These works comprise the railway company's hospital, operatives' dwellings and a market.

—The minister of finance has authorized the rental of the Ypanema iron works to the Sorocabana railway company, which proposes to lodge their employes there. It is an incredible fall—the once promising foundry and iron-works, on which thousands of contos have been expended, now become a lodging-house for railway machinists and laborers!

—The December traffic returns of the São Paulo railway, compared with the same month of last year, give the following results:

	1898	1899
Extension, Kiloms.	139	139
Inward freight, tons.	51,791	38,884
do. since 1st Jan. "	570,136	552,453
Outward freights "	37,349	26,453
do. since 1st Jan. "	345,810	412,653
Passengers carried,	111,971	79,252
do. since 1st Jan.	1,241,379	1,165,570
Inter-station traffic, tons.	18,108	16,384

—The estimated traffic receipts of the Leopoldina railway for the week ending January 6th were 229,234\$, which at the current exchange rate of 7 1/16 d. gave £ 6,746 in sterling. In the corresponding week of last year the currency receipts were 320,932\$, which at the exchange rate then ruling of 7 1/2 d. gave £ 10,029 in sterling. The aggregate receipts since 1st January were £ 5,913 this year and £ 10,029 last year. The deficits for the current year, therefore, were 91,698\$ in currency and £ 3,283 in sterling for the week and £ 4,116 for the period since 1st January.

—The new schedule of freight and passenger rates on the Leopoldina Co's lines in the state of Minas Geraes will go into operation on the 1st prox. According to this schedule passengers will be carried at the following rates:—For the 1st 200 kilometres, 1st class, 80 reis per kilometre, and 2nd-class, 50 reis; for any distance in excess of 200 kilometres, 1st class, 65 reis per kilometre, and 2nd class, 40 reis. On parcels the rates are as follows:—For 100 kilometres, 10 reis per 10 kilos; for 100 to 300 kilometres, 8 reis per 10 kilos; over 300 kilometres, 6 reis per 10 kilos. These are the rates on express trains; on accommodation trains they are respectively 8, 6 and 4 reis. On imported general merchandise, 6, 4 and 2 reis on coffee, 4 1/2, 3 and 2 reis; on Brazilian foodstuffs, 1 1/2, 1 and 1/2 real. Potatoes exported pay 30 reis per ton and kilometre. Other foodstuffs exported pay 200 reis per bag of 62 1/2 kilos for any distance not over 200 kilometres and 400 reis if the distance exceeds 200 kilometres. On passenger return tickets an abatement of 25 % is made.

HOW TO SPELL WAGON.

Let us to-day, good reader, have a nice improving time together. I have quite a number of letters before me from anxious inquirers seeking guidance, and I feel that their questions should be answered before the festivities of Christmas set in with their accustomed severity, and make such work, if not impossible, at least irksome. I take the following letter first because of the very proper spirit which breathes in its lines. (Don't say that spirits cannot breathe in lines, for I know better):

Dear S. L. H.—Will you kindly inform me which is the correct spelling, «wagons» or «waggon»? Your esteemed paper—I say, yours, for if it isn't yours it ought to be—almost daily spells it with one «g» but on more than one occasion has spelt it both ways in one issue. I shall take your decision as final.

This is a terrible responsibility, but I do not shrink from it.

My correspondent sends me quotations from Spenser, Knolles, Shakespeare, Milton, and Dryden all supporting the double «g» method. I have tracked my friend through his references, and know exactly where he has been. And as he sends two quotations from Spenser in support of two «g's», I can reply with two other quotations from the same author in which one «g» form is never found in Shakespeare or in the authorised version of the Bible.

But Webster, Noah Webster, the lexicographer, attempts to settle the point in this way:

Wagon: This word and its compounds are often written with two «g's», chiefly in England. The forms «wagon» «waggon» etc. are, however, etymologically preferable.

Noah was an American (I mean Noah Webster, not the gentleman who ran around on Ararat), and as he lived before the Anglo-

American entente it is possible he swore that one form was etymologically preferable simply because the other was chiefly used in England.

Be that how it may, it still remains with me to give a decision. A thoughtful friend of mine tells me that the Midland Railway Carriage and Wagon Company, Limited, uses only one «g.» and as the company makes the article it is sure to know how to spell the word. This is ingenious, but will not bear a close scrutiny, I fear—for perhaps only one «g» is used because the company is limited. However, I feel it is time to give judgment, and it is this—when the word «wagon» is used as meaning a vehicle for use on a railroad then one «g» is right; but you should write «waggon» when a horse or horses pull it along. You ask—Why? Because a horse is a gee-gee, and that obviously implies double «g.» Who can say nay to this?—«Sub-Rosa» column, *Morning Leader*.

METALS MADE PLIABLE BY TAURIC ACID.

Another discovery is announced that bids fair to give as important results in the world of science as any that has been made in many years. It is the result of experiments carried on by Theodore Olan, a Swedish chemist at Washington, and like many others it was found by the merest accident. Mr. Olan's discovery consists in finding a new element which other metals, making them soft, pliable, and ductile as a piece of putty, and quite as easily and safely handled. He has named the new chemical agent tauric acid, because it is obtained from tauric moss, a peculiar lichen, or fungus, which grows upon rocks and the roots of trees very generally in the country, but it has never before been the subject of chemical investigation. The new acid has been tested by many eminent chemists in the country, who pronounced Mr. Olan's discovery to be one of the wonders of the world of chemistry, and it is believed that it has a great and important future before it in the arts and sciences. It is remarkable that the discover has given it gratuitously to the world when he might have acquired a fortune from its sale... The process of making the acid is very simple and inexpensive. Mr. Olan describes it as follows:—My plan for bringing out the acid from the tauric moss is to put in a deep vessel a layer of tauric moss, to the depth of two inches, and then a layer of chloride of potash of about the same thickness. This is saturated with water until the lime is soaked away. After the fire has gone out of the lime the liquid is drawn off. After this, cresote of tar is added until a saturated solution results. The solution is precipitated with a solution of sulphuric acid, one part in ten. After precipitation the supernatant liquid is decanted, and the residue is found to consist of pure tauric acid.—*Chicago Record*.

—Not since the Crimean war has a field-marshal commanded a British army in war time. Even here the analogy is not quite complete. Lord Raglan, who commanded in the Russian campaign, did not receive his bâton until after the battle of Inkerman, whereas Lord Roberts is already a field-marshal, having attained that position in 1895, on his retirement from the post of Commander-in-Chief in India. In yet one other respect does the parallel fail. Lord Raglan had under him only 25,000 British troops; Lord Roberts, on the other hand, will be in command of at least 150,000 men—the largest army that Great Britain has ever placed in the field.—*Morning Leader*.

SHIPPING NOTES

—On the 9th the stevedore's strike at Buenos Aires was supposed to be in a fair way of settlement, when new difficulties arose and new accessions were received. It is expected that the strike will terminate to-day.

—The stevedores' men in dock struck work yesterday at noon claiming higher wages. We understand that this is owing to several firms paying different wages for the same work those men receiving less pay, having struck for the same as the others. Owing to this, operations in port were greatly handicapped and several vessels were unable to finish and sail.—*B. A. Herald*, Jan. 5.

—The passengers who arrived in Rio on the 11th inst. by the Lampart & Holt steamer «Wordsworth» from New York, Pernambuco and Bahia, were the following: Mrs. Maria Amelia Albuquerque, Dr. Horace M. Lane Jr., Messrs. George N. Smith, João de Sá Albuquerque, Albert Chio and 7 third-class. There were also 12 first and 1 third-class passengers in transit.

—The Argentine sanitary authorities have concluded to ignore their highly-appreciated *campesinos* at Rio, and will therefore put their inspectors on board mail steamers at Bahia and these inspectors must overlook the Ilha Grande disinfections. If these *reclutamientos* are attended to, and no suspicious diseases appears on board, the steamer will have free pratique. All Brazilian official reports are apparently to be ignored.

—The River Plate sanitary sharps have imposed ten days quarantine against Rio de Janeiro. This ought to be very pleasing information to Dr. Nmo de Andrade and his assistants.

—The Royal Mail steamer «Atrato» which arrived in Rio on the 9th inst. from Europe Pernambuco, Macéio and Bahia, brought the following passengers: Mr. and Mrs. Rego Barros, Mrs. C. Rego Barros, Misses Rosalina and E. Porto, Messrs. H. F. Kayll, A. Studer, D. Colletti, O. Duvièvre, D. Doncker, H. Kesckworth, F. Harvey, Dr. A. Gail, S. Richards, M. S. Maia, J. F. Marques, P. Almeida, M. Leão, C. Peganha, C. B. Henriques, F. F. Nunes, W. E. Entzinger, wife, 3 children and servant and 2 third-class.

—The passengers who left Rio on the 10th inst. by the Royal Mail steamer «Magdalena» for Bahia, Macéio, Pernambuco and Europe were the following: Mrs. Lina Rund, Mr. H. W. Stacey, Dr. T. G. Castro, wife, infant and servant, C. Goulart, Harry Hagen, A. L. P. Carvalho, Colonel P. Gordillo, wife and servant, Carlos Brandão, J. Beguerie and wife S. Guthmann, A. McDonald, F. Soane, H. E. Reschke, E. Mesquita, Dr. A. J. B. França, wife, child and nurse, A. Neves, J. L. Meireles, L. G. Costa, Alfredo A. Carvalho and A. Cintra.

LOCAL NOTES

—The minister of war, General Meleiros Mallet, has been promoted to the rank of marshal.

—Gens. Argollo and Xavier da Camara, both jacobins, have been promoted to the rank of general of division.

—Gen. Arthur Oscar and Major Thomaz Cavalcanti arrived on Sunday from the north and were enthusiastically welcomed by the jacobins.

—Gen. Costallat, a jacobin, has been appointed director of the military school. It is the most impolitic appointment that could have been made.

—We saw a tram go down the street this afternoon with a fully-armed policeman on the front seat sound asleep. Perhaps the poor fellow had been up all night and could not help it, but what did his protection amount to?

—We see by *The Church Echo* that Mr. A. G. Lander has presented the British Church of this city with a new Altar Service Book, bound in vellum, and a richly-framed photograph of Bishop Stirling, which has been hung in the vestry.

—A Montevideo telegram of the 11th announces the suicide of Lieut. Greene, executive officer of the U. S. cruiser «Montgomery», who had been guilty of some infraction of discipline and took this fatal step to escape court martial.

—The London *Daily News* says it is highly probable that Lord Rosebery will be invited to organize a new ministry. It will be a curious outcome of the Transvaal war, were the ministry which is responsible for it, to be expelled from power at the very outset.

—The court of appeals has released Manuel Alves Moreira, accused of a criminal outrage, because he was not captured *in flagrante* and because the *summario* has not been completed within the legal period. Is there any punishment for official laxity?

—On Saturday the supreme court annulled the decision of a castilhista court that had sentenced Judge Alcides Lima to nine months' suspension from office. The judge had offended the castilhists by issuing a writ of *habeas corpus* in favor of a man that was obnoxious to them.

—In reply to a request from the residents of Icarahy that religious services be held on that side of the bay, Chaplain Crawshaw, of the British Church, expresses his willingness to conduct services there during the hot season in the afternoon or evening at least once a month, providing a suitable place can be obtained.

—Unless the law requires promotions to be made within a given time after vacancies occur, it seems to us that the government is making a blunder in promoting officers of the army at the present time. These promotions increase public expenditure and are an obstacle to the reorganization and reduction of the army.

—It sometimes takes the fear of death to bring out the truth. Now that the plague is said to be in our midst, one of our colleagues calls attention to the extraordinary fact that the drainage of the Misericórdia hospital, with over a thousand patients, is discharged into the bay without even the pretence of disinfection.

—The ferry company has suppressed season tickets and intends, it is reported, to raise the fare to 500 reis. The protests which have followed, according to the *Paiz*, have prevented the latter and it may be that a vigorous movement will prevent the former. The company, we understand, has no right to make such an increase in fares.

—Among the departures for England last week by the Royal Mail str. "Magdalena," was Mr. H. W. Stacey, for many years connected with the Rio office of the Rio Pinar Mills, and more recently with the S. Paulo office. Mr. Stacey is one of the most popular men of our small colony and his return to Rio will be heartily welcomed.

—Our local factory of Yersin serum is said to be approaching completion, but a serious difficulty has arisen in regard to the horses. The mounted police have none to spare, and the doctors have found nothing but thrombocytosis, good-for-nothing "stuckers" from which to brew serum. The danger is that we shall get worse diseases from such serum than the bubonic pest. But the affair is eminently characteristic. Where else could it happen that such a factory could be built without first determining whether sound, healthy horses could be easily obtained? It reminds us of the Gambha maritime railway station, built on a very shallow shore.

—"Are the two Josephs of any use to us?" "Certainly not. In fact quite the reverse. They are altogether too conceited. There's that Joseph P., for instance, who is now saying that he has always known that our building got for last year was a delusion and a snare." "He's a delusion and a snare himself." And yet Joseph C. won't let us get rid of him. After having smuggled him through the custom-house he's attempting to smuggle him into it. Well, we'll let him smuggle. "We'd better not." "Listen! Then we'll mortgage the custom-house to our creditors." "Oh I see! And Joseph P. with it. And then?" "Why, then we'll allow our creditors to foreclose."

—As we have been anticipating, the doctors have been finding some suspected cases of bubonic plague. About the beginning of the month, a black child, 6 years of age, fell ill in the Ladeira do Vailongo, Saude district, and the doctors soon discovered something suspicious in the case. After various consultations the child was sent to the Jurubatuba hospital, where he died on the 9th inst., and all the people in the house were sent to the same hospital on the morning of the 11th inst. The persons isolated at the hospital number seven, and if some one of them doesn't fall ill before their time is up, then we have met a very wild calculation. In the meantime all sorts of stories are afloat, which our readers will do well to discredit. The one fact that can not be discounted is the quarantine against us of ten days at the River Plate.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

Social Chess; by James Mason, London: Horace Cox, 1900. "A collection of short and brilliant games with historical and practical illustrations." Lovers of chess will welcome this little manual, and especially because it is devoted to the easy phases of the game, rather than to its deeper and more intricate problems. The object is to make chess more popular and more generally appreciated.

THE CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

A meeting for "illumination, confession of sin, and prayer," convened by Church Association and National Protestant League, was held at Exeter-hall on Thursday. Colonel Wellesley Robinson, who presided, said that some time since the association addressed a letter to Lord Salisbury, begging that he would ask her Majesty to issue an Order in Council calling on the nation to unite in a day of humiliation and prayer in view of the prevailing state of affairs. Idolatry was being introduced into the national church, and the archbishops and bishops who ought to suppress such things were afraid to deal with them, for how otherwise was the delay of the archbishops in pronouncing their opinion about reservation to be accounted for? Current events showed that we as a nation were wandering away from God. He was glad to see that public humiliation had been made for a day of national humiliation, for he was convinced that the time had come when the church and the nation should meet for that purpose. He moved the following resolution, which it was proposed to telegraph to Lord Salisbury:—"That this meeting of protestant churches, having regard to the grave aspect of affairs in the Transvaal, and to our many and great national sins, prays that Her Majesty may be moved to appoint a day for special humiliation and prayer for the nation." This was unanimously agreed to. An address on "The general condition of the church, the sanction given by some of the bishops to lawlessness, and the unscriptural teaching from many pulpits" was delivered by the Rev. Dr. C. H. Wright. Other speakers included the Rev. C. Bradshaw Foy and the Rev. J. B. Barraclough, who alluded to the introduction into the Church of England of "the God dishonouring errors of Rome." Reference was made to the fact that certain bishops and clergy were teaching prayers for the dead, "the mass," "the confessional," and other like dogmas which were in direct opposition to the word of God and to the Book of Common Prayer. Mr. Foy remarking that he was publishing the British nation for its neglect of His warning by means of a handful of farmers—The Times, London, 16th Dec.

GENERAL SOLON.

General Frederico Solon de Sampaio Ribeiro, who died at Parã on the 10th inst., was born at Porto Alegre on Dec. 28, 1842. At the age of 16 he entered the military school and two years afterwards received the com-

mission of 2nd lieutenant of artillery, being transferred in 1861 to the cavalry.

He took part in the wars in Uruguay and Paraguay and during that period rose to the rank of captain. In 1881 he was promoted to the rank of major and in 1889 he was appointed commander of the 9th regiment of cavalry. He led to a prominent part in the military plot that led to the overthrow of the monarchy and he was selected by the provisional government to inform the deposed Emperor of the decree of banishment.

He was appointed governor of Matto Grosso and represented that state in the first republican congress. While in congress he introduced a bill rendering military men ineligible for political offices.

In 1892 he had reached, by successive promotions, the rank of brigadier-general.

In 1893, under Marshal Floriano Peixoto he was arbitrarily arrested and incarcerated in a convict prison, where he doubtless contracted the disease that has now caused his death. While in prison, on the night of Nov. 23, Gen. Solon dreamed that as one of the pall-bearers he had taken part in the funeral of the republic. The other pall-bearers were Barão de Batovy (afterwards murdered by the troops of Marshal Floriano Peixoto), Barão do Rio Apa (Floriano's adjutant-general and acting minister of war), Admiral Firmino Chaves (Floriano's minister of marine), Barão de Luçena and Dr. Demetrio Ribeiro, who had been ministers of Marshal Deodoro.

The coffin of the republic was carried into a chamber of dazzling splendor and placed on a simple catafalque. In this chamber, seated on a refulgent throne, was the late Emperor D. Pedro II. Standing near him were two of his grandsons, D. Pedro and D. Augusto, and ranged along the walls of the chamber were prominent civilians and naval and army officers of high rank. Dr. Demetrio Ribeiro was to deliver the funeral oration, but, when he was about to speak, he suddenly and mysteriously disappeared. Amazed at this incident, the other pall-bearers precipitately set out in pursuit and were engaged in a vain search for their missing companion when the sleeper was roused from his dream by the horse call of one of the prison sentinels.

The dream made a vivid and profound impression upon Gen. Solon and also upon his fellow-prisoners when he related it to them on the following morning.

After his release Gen. Solon was appointed by President Prudente de Moraes commander of the 3rd military district, from which he was removed in 1897 to the command of the 1st district.

At the time of his death he was general of division.

BUSINESS NOTES.

—At the end of last year the stock of cloth of the Companhia Confiança Industrial was valued at 117,728\$ and the raw material (cotton) at 262,216\$880.

—The value of the bonds of 1897 held by the Banco Rural e Hypothecario was 21,077,550\$ on the 31st ult., against 21,921,900\$ on the 30th of November.

—During the month of December the savings bank (caixa economica) of this city received 1,824,217\$500 on deposit, and paid out 1,910,000\$080 on withdrawals. There were 123,816 depositors on the books at the beginning of the current month.

—By decree No. 3548, of the 8th inst., the personnel of the custom house of Sant'Anna do Livramento is to consist of an inspector, a treasurer, a janitor, a store-keeper, 12 1st and 2nd class clerks and 10 guards, whose aggregate pay is to be 50,080\$ per annum.

—In the present quarter the government's creditors would do well to be active and vigilant in order to prevent their accounts from falling into arrear. The remembrance of the scenes witnessed last year at the treasury in the latter part of March should warn them of the danger of procrastination. If there is delay in auditing their accounts they should at once publish their complaints.

—On the 31st ult. the cash balances of the five foreign banks in this city amounted to 42,631,000\$, against 43,117,000\$ on the 30th of November and 69,802,000\$ on Dec. 31, 1898. The deposits were as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Without interest, With, Not discriminated, Total. Values range from 40,069,138\$728 to 87,944,543\$49.

Table with 2 columns: Receipts of Brazilian market last year were as follows: From Macao, Cabo Frio, Mossoró, Arca Branca, Bahia, Aracaju, Villa Nova. Total: 23,788\$.

—The Commercial Intelligence of the 23rd ult. gives the total trade of South America in 1898 at £ 64,433,000 in imports and £ 80,414,000 in exports. Of these totals the United States contributed about 12 per cent. of the first, and took about 20 per cent. of the second. Brazil's import trade is stated to have been £ 20,992,000, to which the United States contributed £ 2,642,000, and her export trade £ 26,038,000, of which the United States received a little over 40 per cent., or £ 10,675,000.

—A telegram of the 10th inst. from Porto Alegre announces that the firm of Vivira Clausen & Co., one of the strongest firms in Rio Grande do Sul, has suspended payments. This house has branches in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande, Pelotas, Santos and Rio de Janeiro and it is thought that its failure will lead to that of other houses. Its liabilities amount to several thousand contos. Its suspension of payments is said to have caused much surprise in business circles. A later telegram states that creditors seem disposed to enter into an agreement enabling the firm to continue in business—which we trust will be done. We call to mind the difficulties business firms are encountering in making collections, and a little time might easily enable a good house to meet its liabilities.

—The custom-house has published the following statement of the official value of imports at the port of Rio de Janeiro for the month of November, 1899:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Value. Includes Argentina, France, United States, Portugal, Uruguay, Belgium, Italy, Spain, Chili, and other countries. Total: 17,693,381\$070.

—The adventurers who control the affairs of the petty republics of South America have some strange ideas of statesmanship. Not long ago it was announced from Venezuela that the tariff of that country would be advanced 20 per cent. This is an easy way of making an alteration; it does not involve the trouble of making calculations by those who impose it; and it also lends itself quite as easily to reductions. This is shown by the fact that the authorities of Venezuela have repented of their intention, and have announced through the vice-consulate in Manchester that this tariff, which came into force on the 1st of September last, and under which the duties on imports were advanced 20 per cent., has been officially cancelled, and the previous one of June, 1896, resumed.—Textile Mercury.

—As stated in these columns last week, it was understood that goods bearing labels in the Portuguese language could only be admitted into Brazil, under the new tariff law, if they are imported from Portugal; but that a telegram from her Majesty's minister at Rio de Janeiro had been received by the Foreign Office, to the effect that goods with labels in Portuguese will be admitted into Brazil until March next. It may well be asked, from what perverse idea of the administrative mind can a regulation like this have proceeded? The very acme of intelligent enterprise and efficient trading is for a merchant to address his customers, whether verbally or in correspondence, in their own tongue. Yet here is a regulation deliberately transgressing this wise conclusion. If merchants may not send goods into a country labelled in the language of those who receive them, we may expect as the next step that foreign correspondence with the subjects of the Brazilian republic must not be in Portuguese, but in English, German, Japanese, or Chinese. After this our commercial travellers will be similarly regulated, and not permitted to enter the country if they speak Portuguese, or any other than their native tongue. This is another instance of the luminous wisdom of the South American democracies. Verily, a country governed as Brazil is to-day may be excused if it cherishes a wish for the restoration of the line of Dom Pedro, its late Emperor, one of the wisest rulers that ever sat upon a throne.—Textile Mercury, Dec. 23.

—A \$250,000 shipment of material and equipment was this week made to Brazil for the Tietê river electric light & power Co. The San Paulo company is composed of a group of American and Canadian capitalists. Prominent among the Americans interested are F. S. Pearson, who is consulting engineer of the Metropolitan Street Railway, and Col. Geo. B. Harvey. The company has been formed with a capital of \$5,000,000, for the purpose of building and operating at San Paulo the first trolley road in that part of the world. An hydraulic plant which will develop 16,000 horse-power is to be constructed on the Tietê river at a point 23 miles distant from San Paulo. This plant will ultimately supply the requisite electric energy for the operating of the trolley road. It will also cause the substitution by electricity of steam power in the factories which abound in San Paulo and the immediate neighborhood. The company has also secured a perpetual concession for the electric lighting of the streets. All the work is being superintended by American engineers. Six firemen who will be employed on the overhead trolley work sailed last week for San Paulo. The shipment before referred to was made by a specially chartered steamship. The cargo aggregated nearly 4,000 tons. It comprised 7,259 steel rails which weighed in all 2,500 tons, nine special track layouts, 13 complete trolley cars, including trucks and bodies, two large electric generators which will be utilized in the temporary power house, a \$20,000 lot of iron trolley poles, two 250 horse-power Cahall boilers, while other shipments included pneumatic tools, derricks, heating apparatus, oil, insulators and overhead work, besides a miscellaneous lot of supplies. N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Dec. 15.

—As some foreigners are talking of erecting a hotel near the Iguaçu falls, in the Missões, which is Brazilian territory, we hope the minister of finance will not lose the opportunity to make the place a source of revenue to the treasury. Not only should there be something from the concession, but a sturdy lion should be at once imposed on the scenery and on the rear of the waterfall. Then a few of our confederates should be sent down there, and if a tourist happens to cross the boundary with more than one shirt he should be taxed for the excess.

—Among the half-yearly dividends whose payment is announced are the following:—Banco União de S. Carlos, 25\$ per share; Banco da Republica, 6\$; Banco Commercial do Rio de Janeiro, 8\$; Companhia Manufactura Plaminense, 10\$; Companhia de Fiação e Tecidos Confiança Industrial, 10\$; Banco Nacional Brasileiro, 10\$; Banco do Commercio, 6\$; Companhia de Acidos, 8\$; Companhia Progresso Industrial do Brazil, 12\$; Banco da Lavoura e do Commercio do Brazil, 6\$; Companhia de Fiação e Tecidos Mercantile, 10\$; Companhia Mate Larangeira, 15\$; Banco Mercantil de Santos, 8\$; Banco Rural e Hypothecario, 9\$. As the nominal value of a share is 200\$, these dividends are at the rate of from 6% to 25% per annum. Some of the insurance companies are announcing dividends of from 15% to 30%.

FINANCIAL NOTES.

—The government would do well to make an official statement in regard to the internal funded-debt. As our readers will remember, there was a controversy last year between the government and the holders of the internal gold bonds, and, as far as we are aware, no official account of the solution has ever been made public.

—Small favors thankfully received. The government's partisans are rejoicing over the quotation of bonds of 1880 at 58 1/2%, and predicting on the strength thereof an era of financial prosperity. And yet on the 1st of August those bonds were quoted at 65% or 4 1/2% more, and no prosperity whatever has resulted therefrom.

—When the government's partisans assert that it is economizing as much as it can, they fail, we suspect, to examine the items of public expenditure. Why might not, for instance, a considerable sum be advantageously saved by retrenchment in the cost of giving publicity to the *Nattara's* articles on finance and other subjects? Whatever may be the literary merit of those articles, no one, we presume, will venture to contend that taxpayers derive any benefit from them.

—It is stated that the government has decided to burn 91,314 gold bonds of 1880 that are lying in the treasury. These bonds were originally deposited by banks of issue as a guarantee for their notes and were transferred to the government when the latter assumed responsibility for those notes. As they are useless except for the purpose of reissue and as such reissue is out of the question at present, there seems to be no objection to the government's resolution to destroy them.

—In the month of December, in spite of comparatively large customs receipts in that month, the government does not seem to have been able to prepare the treasury for the heavy payments that will have to be made in the present quarter. Its balance on account current at the Banco da Republica increased from 17,321,041\$52 to only 22,280,185\$82 and during the same month the treasury incurred a debt of 18,500,230\$53 to the bank for sundry accounts, which, if paid, would reduce the balance to 3,459,946\$29.

—The following is a statement of customs receipts at the port of Rio de Janeiro for the last two weeks of the present year in comparison with those of 1899:

Table with 3 columns: Week, 1899, 1900. Values range from 1,491,207\$500 to 1,573,086\$970.

The decrease was 2,070,048\$574, that is nearly 68%. The duties collected in gold amounted this year to 39,413\$624 in the 1st week and 39,550\$762 in the 2nd week, making for the two weeks 79,103\$386, a sum which, although collected at the rate of 15% is we believe, considerably smaller than the amount collected last year in the corresponding period at the rate of only 10%.

—One of our readers, who is an old resident of this city, gives us his estimate of public revenue for the current year, as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Category, Amount. Includes Customs receipts, Internal revenue, Sundry, Total, Central Railway. Total: 142,000,000\$.

Total: 172,000,000\$. Gov't estimate: 320,000,000\$. Probable deficit 31 Dec. 1900: 14,800,000\$. Or, but: £ 5,000,000. Add to this: £ 9,000,000. Due on the funding loan agreement on 15 June, 1901, and the government will have to meet next year a deficit of about £ 14,000,000 sterling.

A DOCTOR'S PRISONERS.

The Rev. A. A. J. Andrews, honorary chaplain to the Natal Mounted Rifles, writing to his father, the Rev. J. Andrews, Woburn, Bedfordshire, describes the scene after the battle of Elands Laagter.

COFFEE NOTES

—It is estimated that the mild crops of coffee for 1899-1900 will be from 750,000 to 1,000,000 bags less than the average output of the last three years.—Bradstreet's, Dec. 16.

—The American Grocer of Dec. 13th says: "The movement of coffee in November tends to confirm the impression of leading factors, that at last the consumption has passed production."

—The widely-known London firm of James Cook & Co. says in regard to the coffee position:—"Figures are now turning in favor of coffee consumption being apparently about equal to production, even if Brazil continues to give us 10,000,000 bags per annum."

—The quarantine on the three coffee-laden vessels from the plague-infested port of Santos has been raised, and the vessels allowed to come to dock in the city with their cargoes of coffee.

COFFEE CARGOES AT NEW YORK.

It is expected that the first load of the Santos coffee which has been held up so long in the lower bay by the board of health may be landed to-day. It will be from the steamship Lassell, which collided with the steamship Friesland.

John C. Seager of the Prince Line, owners of the coffee ship, Regu said yesterday that his company is diverting its coffee-laden ships from this port and sending them to Key West and New Orleans.

The Maskelyne, from Santos, coffee-laden, and consigned to Busk & Jevons, is due at this port Saturday. A dispatch from Santa Lucia reported that all is well aboard and no danger exists of the plague appearing on it.

—The Lamport & Holt line steamship "Maskelyne," Capt. Russell, from Santos and St. Lucia, arrived in quarantine yesterday. She brought 32,717 sacks of coffee. Her crew, consisting of 24 men are all well and there has been no sickness during the voyage.

New Orleans, Dec. 17.—The British steamer Willowdene, Captain Anderson, from Rio de Janeiro via Santos, coffee laden, arrived at the Mississippi quarantine station to-night. Her crew of twenty-five men is in excellent health, and there was no sickness aboard during the voyage.

From N. Y. Journal of Commerce, Dec. 14.

COFFEE SHIPS ADMITTED.

It was decided yesterday by the board of health to remove the embargo upon the coffee ships Roman Prince, Lassell and Ragusa and allow them to enter port and discharge their cargoes.

The board of health having considered all the facts having reference to the existence of the plague in Brazil, and having heard all the persons who desire to be heard in reference thereto, and having given due consideration to the whole subject, and it appearing to the board that the United States treasury department has formulated certain rules and regulations for the conduct of the health officers under its jurisdiction, in reference to vessels and cargoes arriving from such infected ports; and the board of health deeming that the health of the people committed to its care requires that the greatest caution should be exercised by it so as to prevent any possibility of the plague being introduced within the city, it is, therefore, by the board of health ordered and determined that the cargoes of coffee now in the lower bay or that may hereafter come therein upon a vessel or vessels which have not received a clean bill of health from their port of clearance shall be subjected to a full compliance with the regulations of the treasury department in regard to sanitary treatment, and such additional regulations as may be required and enforced by the health officer of the port of New York; and that in a case where the health officer of the port shall certify in writing to this board of health that all such regulations have been complied with, this board of health does further present and require that the coffee arriving shall, after it is removed to lighters, as prescribed by the regulations hereinbefore referred to, be admitted to the city, only, however, in a case where the health officer of the port shall further certify to this board that the vessel from which said cargo was removed was not infected during her passage, nor had any infectious disease (plague) upon her during said passage, nor during the time of her detention in quarantine.

Provided further, That in a case where a vessel has any case of infectious disease (plague) on her during her journey, or was infected during her arrival or during the time of her detention in quarantine, then the coffee shall be removed from the bagging in which the same is, and shall be conveyed, under the jurisdiction of this board of health, to the place or places where the same is to be roasted, during all of which time the same shall be under the observation of this board.

It is further determined and ordered, That the bagging removed by, the sanitary superintendent of this department, caused to be destroyed by burning, the same to be done at such place as in his judgment may be deemed safe and proper for such disposition; and it is further.

Resolved, That upon compliance with the foregoing requirement the president of this board be and is hereby authorized to issue the necessary permits to carry the same into effect.

COMMERCIAL.

Rio de Janeiro, Jan. 16th, 1900.

Table with 2 columns: Description of goods and prices. Includes gold, Brazilian milreis, and U.S. coin.

Table with 2 columns: Description of exchange rates and values. Includes bank rate of exchange, present value of Brazilian milreis, and value of U.S. coin.

EXCHANGE.

Table with 2 columns: Description of exchange rates and values. Includes bank bills, private bills, and official value of milreis.

Official quotations on London were:

Table with 2 columns: Description of bank bills and private bills, and their opening and closing rates.

Official value of the milreis was 261-26 reis gold.

Table with 2 columns: Description of bank bills and private bills, and their opening and closing rates.

Official value of the milreis 273-276 reis gold.

Table with 2 columns: Description of bank bills and private bills, and their opening and closing rates.

Official value of the milreis 273-278 reis gold.

Table with 2 columns: Description of bank bills and private bills, and their opening and closing rates.

Official value of the milreis 278-280 reis gold.

Table with 2 columns: Description of bank bills and private bills, and their opening and closing rates.

MARKET REPORT.

Rio de Janeiro, 16th January 1900.

Exports.

Coffee.—There has been much more animation in the market the past week, prices showing a small advance and the sales being greatly increased.

The sales during the past week were reported as 84,000 bags, against 35,000 bags in the preceding week of four business days. The receipts were 56,224 bags, and the shipments of 28,479 bags.

The reported sales abroad last week were 288,000 bags at New York, 257,000 at Havre, 135,000 at Hamburg and 150,000 at London—making a total of 797,000 bags against 115,000 bags in the corresponding week of last year, and 284,000 bags in the preceding week.

The detailed movements of the market during the past week were as follows:

Table with 4 columns: Location, Reported sales, Santos, Good Average. Lists various locations and their respective sales figures.

The shipments since our last report have been: 72,261 bags for the United States, 4,808 for Europe, 1,225 for Cape of Good Hope, 185 for River Plate, etc., 78,479 bags.

The following ships sailed with coffee last week:

Table with 4 columns: Date, Ship Name, Origin, Destination. Lists ship names and their routes.

The receipts for the past week were 51,405 bags against 41,639 bags for the previous week and 24,041 bags for the week before.

Brokers' quotations, according to New-York types were the following: No. 6, 15,000; No. 7, 15,000; No. 8, 14,000; No. 9, 14,000.

Daily receipts and shipments of coffee at Rio de Janeiro

Table with 4 columns: Date, Receipts, Shipments, Total. Shows daily coffee activity from Jan 7 to Jan 13.

Table with 4 columns: Date, Receipts, Shipments, Total. Shows weekly coffee activity for Jan 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

SANTOS.

According to the monthly report of the Associação Commercial de Santos, the receipts of coffee at that port during December, aggregated 41,007 bags, against 174,000 bags last year and 453,231 bags in 1897.

Table with 2 columns: Destination, Bags. Lists various international destinations and their coffee bag counts.

And shipped by the following firms: Nanman, Gepp & Co., Rose & Knowles, Auguste Leuba & Co., Goetz Hays & Co., Theodor Wille Co., Zerpener, Bulow & Co., J. W. Dunne & Co., E. Johnston & Co., Aret & Co., Harald, Rand & Co., Nossack & Co., Arucke Brothers, A. Trommel & Co., Kirsche & Co., Holworthy, Ellis & Co., Karl Valds & Co., Henry Wolke & Co., W. F. McLaughlin & Co., Schmidt & Frost, Frodo Chaves & Co., Sundry.

Table with 2 columns: Firm Name, Bags. Lists shipping firms and their respective bag counts.

Monthly bulletin of the Santos coffee market during December last, with daily receipts, sales, base, shipments, stock and exchange.

Large table with 7 columns: Date, Bags, Sales, Base, Shipments, Exch. Shows detailed daily market data for Santos coffee.

SANTOS

Movement of coffee from 1st July to 31st December 1899.

Table showing coffee movement from July to December 1899, including exporters, destinations, and total amounts.

Imports. Flour - The Julia Rollins brought 7,050 barrels from Baltimore... White Pine - The arrivals were 17,253 feet of Wordsworth from New York... Spruce Pine - No receipts. The wholesale price is 78,000 per dozen.

JAN. 11. PENSAOLA - Germ. bk. Ellw; 405 tons; Mans; ballast. FIANZASCAR - Fr. bk. Thoeny; 995 tons; Thoms; ballast. FREIGHTS. NEW YORK - 50 cents and 5% primage per bag of coffee.

SHIPPING NEWS. ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN VESSELS. JANUARY 8. RANGOON - Nor. bk. Pharos; 1,203 tons; Anderson 173 ds; rice to order.

Vessels Afloat & Chartered for Rio. Anna Schwalbe - Hamburg. Cambrian King - Swansea. Dalhanna - Ship Island.

Arrivals of foreign steamers. Table with columns: NAME, FROM, CONSIGNED TO. Includes vessels like Altrato, Albatross, Amazonas.

Departures of foreign steamers. Table with columns: NAME, FOR, CARGO. Includes vessels like Los Alpes, Villos, Horrox.

* Calling at intermediate ports.

Foreign sailing vessels in the port of Rio de Janeiro, January 14th 1900.

Table listing foreign sailing vessels in the port of Rio de Janeiro, including ship names, origins, and agents.

STOCKS AND SHARES

Table listing stocks and shares, including Apolices, Loterias Nacionales, and various bank shares.

Miscellaneous

Table listing miscellaneous items and prices, including Loterias Nacionales, Melhoramentos no Brazil, and various bonds.

Banks

Table listing bank shares and prices, including Lavonra e Commercio, Republica.

Miscellaneous

Table listing miscellaneous items and prices, including Docas de Santos, Melhoramentos no Brazil.

Banks

Table listing bank shares and prices, including Republica.

Miscellaneous

Table listing miscellaneous items and prices, including Manufatura de Fumos, Melhoramentos no Brazil.

Banks

Table listing bank shares and prices, including Republica.

Miscellaneous

Table listing miscellaneous items and prices, including Melhoramentos no Brazil, Sal e Navegacao.

SATURDAY'S QUOTATIONS - S. PAULO.

Table listing Saturday's quotations in Santos, including Banco Commercial e Industrial, Credito Real da Cantieira, and various bonds.

Stocks and Bonds and Joint Stock Companies --- January 15th.

Table with columns: Emission, Circulation, Public Funds, Nominal Value, Last Quotation buyers, Last Quotation sellers. Lists various bonds and public funds with their respective values and market prices.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Banks, Paid, Reserve Fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various banks and financial institutions with their capital and market data.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Railways, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various railway companies and their financial details.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Tramways, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various tramway companies and their financial details.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Steamships, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various steamship companies and their financial details.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Cotton Mills, etc., Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last quotation. Lists various cotton mills and other textile-related companies.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Insurance, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last Quotation. Lists various insurance companies and their financial details.

Table with columns: Capital, Shares, Emitted, Par, Miscellaneous, Paid, Reserve fund, Last Dividend, Last Quotation. Lists various miscellaneous companies and their financial details.

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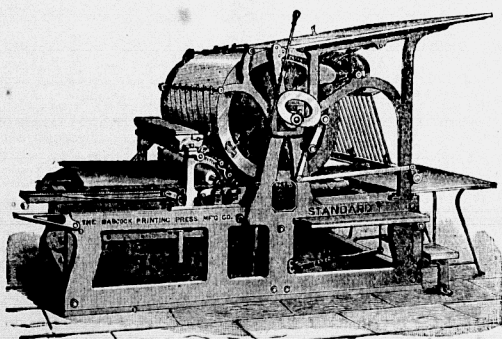
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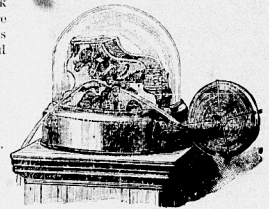
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HAVRE—RUE VICTOR HUGO, 136.
ANTWERP—COURTE RUE DES CLAIRES, 12.
AMSTERDAM—JACOB VAN CAMPENSTRAAT, 49B.



BERLIN, C.—HEILIGEELIENSTRASSE, 8-9.
HAMBURG—ALTERWALL, 76.
MANNHEIM—F. 3, NO. 1.
DANZIG—GR. KRÄMERGASSE, 4.
PRAGUE—NEKAZANKAGASSE, 13.
BRUNN—FROHLICHGASSE, 23.
VIENNA, I.—HOHENSTAUFGASSE, 4.
BUDAPEST, V.—MARIA-VALERIEGASSE, 12.
BPALA—STRADA GOLESKI, 2.
ZÜRICH—POSTSTRASSE, 11.

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Missing Friends.

The British consul will be glad to receive information of the following:

VAUGHAN, James—who was employed for some time as engine driver on the Central Argentine Railway and who left Rosario about 3 or 4 years ago. Rio de Janeiro, 29th August, 1899.

SEA SICKNESS

26 cases were treated on board the "Olinde" by Dr. Ernani Pinto with Tinture of Nectandra and of these, 22 cases were completely cured, and the remaining four became much better.

The illustrious naval surgeon Dr. Henrique Mangon says that "during voyages on men of war I have had occasion to use Tinture of Nectandra Amara of Mr. Antero Leivas against sea sickness and always with excellent results.

Numberless testimonials of travellers justify the results obtained by these distinguished physicians, with the Tinture and pills of the Nectandra Amara against sea-sickness.

In order to facilitate the use of this medicine a prospectus accompanies each bottle written in the Portuguese, English and French languages.

N.B. The Nectandra Amara pills are formulated with the same doses of the Nectandra, in order that they may be sent by post all over the world with the least possible delay to supply the want of the Wine Elixir and Tinture of Nectandra Amara, which are liquid and cannot, therefore, be transported by the same rapid and sure means.

For sea sickness, nausea in pregnancy, impoverishment of blood, weakness of the legs and convalescence after long and serious illness, the pills should be ground and dissolved in a small glass of Port wine in order that they may be taken as a liquid to insure a prompt action; it is also to facilitate for adults and children who cannot take dry pills, and in this case they can be dissolved in pure water if no wine is to be had.

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Address of manufacturer: Joaquim Bueno de Miranda, Rua de S. Pedro N. 74, 1º andar, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

THE RIO NEWS.

This paper is now in its 26th year being originally been published as *The South American Mail* and *The British and American Mail*. It assumed its present title at the beginning of April, 1879, when it was published three times a month. From a tri-monthly it has been changed to a weekly publication, and from four pages it has been increased to twelve.

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