

THE RIO NEWS.

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THE PRICE OF PROTECTION

Mr. Alfred Tylor publishes in the *Economist* of October, a remarkable letter on the effect of the United States tariff upon American prosperity as well as upon British prosperity, which deserves the most thoughtful consideration in this country. After some preliminary observations of importance, Mr. Tylor brings forward his main proposition, that the United States have suffered more in the long run than England from the artificial stimulus given to American manufactures, and the damage artificially inflicted upon English manufactures by the United States tariff, and from this he proceeds as follows:

One consequence is that the American cotton grower has latterly got the minimum instead of the maximum price for his article. The price of finished goods, both in Great Britain and the United States, is said to have been below the cost of production, and the wages earned by the operatives in both countries hardly sufficient to pay for bare necessities, and often there was no interest earned on manufacturer's capital. The cotton goods exported to the United States for 1872 were valued at £5,337,974, and those for 1878 were valued at £2,190,009, or about half the amount. The exports for iron and woollen goods also fell enormously.

The fall in value applies to another great imports from the United States. In 1869 petroleum was £21 per ton. In 1872, 23,580 tons were imported at £18 per ton. In 1878 the quantity imported increased five-fold, and the price fell to £10 per ton. The actual figures are 119,316 tons, value £1,210,212. The price now is about 7 1-2 pence per gallon, including casks and freight. These cost, it is believed, 4 pence per gallon, leaving about 3 1-2 pence per gallon for the American producer. The price fluctuated 25 per cent. in 1878.

I have thus traced the great fall in American produce in 1872 to 1878 equal to 10 per cent. in wheat, 30 per cent. in cotton and 40 per cent. on petroleum. This fall has accompanied the practical shutting out from the United States of 60 per cent. of British manufactures by a high protective tariff, comparing 1872 and 1878 together. The proportion of British imports and exports from and to the United States were about equal in 1872, viz.: £54,000,000 and £45,000,000, exclusive of freight. In 1878 the imports from the States increased to £89,000,000 and the exports to the States fell to £17,000,000.

I should explain the cause of the fall in prices of American exports in the following manner: By the rescinding of protective duties you can always make the whole trade better between any countries, and improve the profits of traders and the condition of the laboring population.

This result has never been better instanced than in the case of Cobden's French treaty. The converse must also always be true, viz.: that by putting on protective duties you can always make the whole trade worse between any countries, and injure the traders and the laboring population of each. That is, if protection was not bad free trade could not be good. We know by experience the good effects of free trade. Capital, profits, wages and advantages of all kinds have increased in this country compared with former times.

I believe that the evil of protective tariffs is well illustrated by the particular trading history of the United States in the last seven years. The effect in this case can be fairly ascertained by comparing the price paid in good times for grain, cotton and petroleum and the price paid for these articles after the tariff had crushed the export trade to the States.

The fall in price I have shown has thus not only affected wheat and corn, but also cotton and petroleum, and these articles are of such dissimilar character that a common fall in price must be due to one cause, viz. to the want of reciprocity in trading, caused by the protective tariff. The protective system of the United States has placed a heavy penalty on trade in one direction, and that

penalty would be a burden on trade in the opposite direction. As far as possible, a free exchange of commodities to an equal extent and the settlement of the small balance in coin, is the condition that promotes good prices and large businesses between distant countries according to all experience.

It is a help to the argument that protection has forced down prices, that from the absence of Black Sea and Indian wheat (from the troubles of the Turkish war) at one time and from the Indian famine at another, and from deficient crops and other causes, the United States was the only market from which we could supply ourselves with food; yet prices fell instead of rising.

No other country can produce petroleum or such good cotton as the States. Had they had a liberal tariff at Washington for these five years they would have traded at the greatest advantage and made far larger profits than they have realized.

There are signs that trade is reviving between the two countries, but it never can be fair to both sides unless it is conducted on the principles of free trade. The rivalry has caused the rise of imports and exports in value to be equal in the last month in grain and iron. No country ever yet succeeded to tax imports and get the full value for their exports.

The statistics of American trade in the last five years confirm this law most fully. Where they have realized at the New York custom house by protective duties the Americans appear to have lost several dollars in the depreciated price of their commodities in the countries to which they refuse to grant a fair exchange. They have rendered European trade inactive and their home trade has been equally depressed as to profits, if its volume has been large.

A PROVINCIAL OPINION.

We give herewith translations of parts of an editorial taken from the *Monitor* of Bahia of the 10th inst. in which it severely criticises the *Diario*, the official organ of that city for its treatment of the subject of the disturbances in Rio. The *Monitor* seems to forget what official organs are for.

"After three days of unusual and inexplicable silence on the critical circumstances through which the country is passing the government paper of the province has at last resolved to tell us in a colorful article what it thinks of the events in the capital. 'The capital of the empire is in perfect peace'—such are the cheerful words with which it opens its long looked for editorial. As long as the cavalry is not riding the streets, as long as the people and the public force are not locked in fight-fights, to the official organ peace reigns, complete peace; public tranquillity is not only unaltered but unalterable. 'The government has succeeded in quelling the spirit of disorder which provoked the sad scenes of which the capital of the empire was the theatre during the first days of the present month.' When eager opinion searched the pages of the official organ for information as to the knowledge of what caused at the beginning of the new year, when every one is wishing to know by what steps so quiet a people allow themselves to be carried away by such an unusual rage, the *Diario* does not refer to things logically, drawing effects from causes; it doesn't tell us how the popular wave rose and what steps the government took to avoid the conflicts, but limits itself to this common place and high-sounding phrase, to this declaration of all bad government in all times: 'the spirit of disorder has been repressed.'"

The people are not the spirit of disorder, they are not the manikin of perverse men as the *Diario* says, and as all oppressive governments have invariably proclaimed. The people are that innumerable multitude of creatures who work and suffer, who live in misery and pay the impost, who make the army which enslaves them, who sustain those who oppress them; the people are that enormous legion that has made the independence of the country and which is going to be deprived of the vote; the people are the national sovereignty which is dispersed at the point of the musket. And what have the people done now? The government had put upon them a tax at once heavy and unjust; heavy because ten per cent. is a great deal; unjust for the first time in the world here is a government which has thought of the extravagance of taxing outlets—putting an impost on what is spent. Then what did the people do? They met together quietly to protest against the oppression; and by using the men who govern them had told them during the opposition as well as now, that the Emperor is everything in this country, they sought to bring their grievances to the imperial ears.

The government felt that to be a bit of insolence and would not allow it, as in certain countries be-

gars are not allowed to stretch out their hands to the ruling family to ask alms. The door of legal reclamation closed against them, the people met to protest in a mass. What did the government do to disperse the people? It fired on them. What does the *Diario* say now? Let the people make legal reclamations for their rights! But how are the people to do all this? Deputies they have not, make not and know not. The press is the vehicle of opinion, but the press of the capital, has tried itself out, become hoarse with speaking, protesting and declaiming against the *intempestive* act without accomplishing any more than to find itself tired as seditious characters who have abused public credulity.

The people held meetings, but to no end attention to them or listened to their reclamations. How are they to make legal reclamations then? Are they to stop riding in the cars; to stop enjoying their rights by depriving themselves of transportation? Is this the way the *Diario* understands the matter? But the official paper speaks of deeds of violence committed by the people, which, as it says, authorize the excesses of the government. But if it was the people who provoked these deeds, if they were warned to withdraw and did not obey, if in fine the government is right and the people wrong, how was it that Conselheiro Parangatu told the commission that called on him after these conflicts, that he had not authorized the brutal conduct of the public force? Why did he defend himself, why did he exonerate himself from the responsibility for what his agents had done, if they had done what was for the public good and preserved the tranquillity of the capital? What extravagant doctrine is this by which the glory of having pacified the city of Rio de Janeiro belongs to the government, and to others the responsibility for the means by which that glory has been obtained? But if the government was not responsible for the conduct of the public force, then who was? In a government worthy of the name, can one conceive of the public force attacking the people and assassinating them without superior orders, and of the government remaining impassive in sight of this bloodstained arbitrary act? Then why are not the authors of these murders committed by the public force punished?

But there is another fact which should not escape us. When the commission asked that the minister of finance should resign his position Conselheiro Sinimbu was present with not a word to say. What can be the meaning of that humble attitude, of that overwhelmed position of the president of the council when the constitution of the cabinet was being treated off? Why did his excellency not discuss with and convince the commission? Was it contempt for the reclamations of the people? Was it remorse for the evil done that consumed him? Was it grief at seeing that his cabinet could not last long? Was it discouragement at the sentence of destiny? Was it consciousness of his political nullification? We know not what it was, but it certainly was not the attitude to be taken by the emperor's prime minister and the president of the council."

PERSECUTING THE PRESS.

From the *Gazeta de Commercio* (S. Paulo) Jan. 17, 1880.
The sad expedient of persecuting the press is certainly one of the worst evidences of the malcontent intentions of a government. We are not of those who applaud writers who exceed their rights in censuring what appears to them to be wrong in the bearing of the government toward the people; but it is very painful to us to see a government wishing to interdict the strict liberty of a paper which has the courage to maintain its opinions in defence of the people whom the government seeks to mock with unreasonable imposts.

For the simple fact of its having openly opposed the celebrated *rentim* tax, the *Gazeta de Noite*, a paper published in Rio de Janeiro, has been impossibly persecuted by the police under the famous liberal regime, which fact alone is enough to give an idea of the deplorable epoch through which we are passing.

We may be allowed in all frankness to state this political truth, that the most deplorable error of a government is in showing its weakness by persecutions and armed force directed against the press and the people. Contrary to every principle of good tactics, such a system can only bring into discredit the moral force of the prominent chiefs of a party at the time in power. The *Gazeta de Noite* was one of the organs which defended the deep popular indignation toward the ill-starred impost on passages in the capital. Severe perhaps at times, its editors had their patriotism for their excuse, and no one could say they were incited by any systematic anger, but merely by their energy in the presence of an abuse against which there was general antipathy.

The present ministry has shown and continues to show fear of the outspoken opinion of the press, and in persecuting it, they do not comprehend that they are only putting the whole country the more in sympathy with it.

Then they say it is the republicans who are the discordant revolutionists! The free press has a great mission to fulfill in this part of America where old routines greatly embarrass the march of modern progress. Prohibiting its criticism of public acts is a step so dangerous that it may bring about the most serious consequences to be very ones who put it into practice. While

it is true that a licentious press is loathsome to all right-minded men, at the same time it can not be denied that the press which has the courage to tell the people the whole truth, however painful it may be, has the right to be respected.

The reappearance of the *Gazeta de Noite* protesting against the arbitrary acts of the government, shows the firmness of its convictions and the courage with which it defends them, while the continuance of the persecutions with which they seek to extinguish it evinces very clearly the terror of the present cabinet.

THE CHINESE MISSION.

We learn that the government has sent a telegram to Europe ordering the return of the corvet *Vital d'Oliveira*. A telegram was sent to Lisbon where the vessel is supposed to be; if however it should already have left that port, the order of its return will await it in Brindisi. A telegram has also been sent to London ordering the return of the two embassadors Silveira da Motta and Dr. Callado with all their attendants.

News that the miscarriage of the celebrated Chinese expedition has been officially recognized, it would not be a bad idea for the government to tell us how much this experiment has cost the country. It would also not be out of place for the government to call the agricultural congress together again and inform it of the result of its endeavors. What a fiasco!—*Gazeta de Noticias*, Jan. 20.

We understand that the special Brazilian mission going to China for the purpose of celebrating commercial and friendly treaties, and to facilitate the importation of Chinese laborers into Brazil, has thus far met with no obstacle. We have seen private letters from which we gather that there is reason to hope that something may come from this mission.

The ambassador of the celestial empire at the French court, Sr. Eduardo Callado, having expressed on this occasion as well as at other times, the most flattering appreciations of Brazil, and the ardent desire which he nourishes of seeing it enter into direct relations with his country. All the foreign diplomatic agents resident in Paris were present at this dinner. The Spanish ambassador, who has just returned from China where a short time ago he celebrated a treaty for the introduction of Chinese laborers into Cuba, being in Paris and having met the members of our special mission, has accepted the polite invitation made him to return to China on the Brazilian corvet. If these facts are not so significant as to make one hope with certainty for the good result of the mission, they show at least that these affairs seem to be on the way to a favorable solution. In any case we are able to say that neither the special mission nor the corvet *Vital d'Oliveira* has been ordered to return to the empire. —*Jornal do Commercio*, Jan. 22.

THE CABINET CRISIS.

The following is an extract from a leading article in the *Provincia de São Paulo* of the 18th inst. After speaking of a reported probability of the fall of the present cabinet it says:

In any case clouds begin to gather on the horizon of the imperial policy, and it will appear in vain to the conservatives who show in headed articles in the *Jornal do Commercio* that they are full of the saddest forebodings in regard to the fate of the august chief of the monarchy, who, according to that publication, has been for the first time treated with disrespect to the extent of *rentim* being thrown into the carriage in which he went to his palace. The political situation does not appear to us to be secure, or the future of the monarchy altogether unclouded.

But let it be said for truth's sake that the Emperor has no one to complain of but himself. He who shows the wind, repeats the whirlwind. For the liberals the present situation is painful. Our greatest desire is that patriotism inspire them in the hour of the unhappy fall which is predicted.

THE GROWTH OF NEW ORLEANS.

Some very interesting facts in regard to the effects of the Eads' jetties on the trade of New Orleans are brought forward by a recent article in *Scraper's*. The chief difficulty that New Orleans has experienced has been the inability of large vessels of deep draught to come up to the city. That this is no longer the case is amply evidenced by the passage through the jetties of steamers drawing as much as twenty-five feet. The influence of the jetties has already been felt in the grain trade to an amazing extent, as will be seen by the following table, exhibiting the shipments of grain from that port for the years mentioned:

	Bush.
Corn in bulk, 1874-5	199,097
" " 1875-6	1,257,089
" " 1876-7	2,490,300
" " 1877-8	5,249,457
Wheat " 1875-6	38,301
" " 1877-8	843,058

It will be seen by this table that the shipments have doubled nearly five times since 1874. It can hardly be hoped that the increase during the next four years will be in the same ratio but that it will be enormous is not a matter of doubt. New Orleans is already the great cotton shipping port, and with the advantage of the Eads' jetties and the proposed Florida ship canal it will become a formidable rival of the Eastern seaboard cities for the grain trade.—*The Freer*.

THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

on the eve of departure of the American packet, the French packet of the 15th, and Royal Mail packet of the 24th of the month.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 25TH, 1880.

Owing to recent changes in our office this number of THE NEWS has been delayed beyond the usual date of publication. We trust that our subscribers will overlook the delay as it was quite as unavoidable as it has been unusual.

WE ARE glad to see from a recent communication to the Jornal do Commercio from one of the sub-contractors, that the late changes in the staff of the water works construction company, occasioned by the retirement of Mr. William Scully, contractor's agent, and Dr. Bicalho, chief engineer, with some of his subordinates, has caused and will cause no delay in the continuance of the work. The early completion of these works has become a matter of public necessity, and any obstacle thrown in its way, as seems to have been done by Dr. Bicalho and his assistants, could not be otherwise than a grave offence against the public itself. It is not simply a question between the contractor, Mr. Gabrielli, and his employees, it is an issue between the contractors and engineers on the one side, and the city of Rio de Janeiro on the other, in which the earliest possible completion of the works is involved.

THE PAST fortnight has been a witness to another one of those scenes which are so full of ill omens for the future of Brazil. Eighty-nine Russian colonists, men, women and children, have returned to this city from the province of Paraná on their way back to their old homes, and they are now living in the open streets in the most destitute and pitiable condition. We saw them a few mornings ago near one of the boat landings, and a more distressing sight it has never been our lot to witness. Herding together in the open air without the slightest shelter from rain or wind and with scanty food and clothing, their needs and sufferings were such as should move only feelings of pity and charity. It is seen however, that instead of relieving these people, their misfortunes have served simply as food for the curious who have watched their every movement from early morning until late at night, and as food for an untimely discussion of the issues between them and the government. We do not intend to enter into this discussion at this time; or opinions on the complaints of the Russian colonists in Paraná have long since been expressed. It is sufficient to say that those families of this very same people who have settled in the United States and Canada are prosperous and happy, and that such charges as laziness and turbulence have never been made against them. In this particular case there is but one course now open—the prompt alleviation of the sufferings of these colonists and the removal of them from the public streets. It is idle to discuss why and wherefore now that these people have deserted their lands and are in our streets in a destitute condition; it is a crime against humanity to enter into such a discussion and to consume time in the production of general regulations when women and children are starving. Even though its position in the matter may be perfectly defensible, the government can have now no other alternative than the prompt bestowal of assistance. These people can not be left to starve in the streets, and the highest interests of good order and morality demand that they shall not be left to beg at will. Besides that the health of the city demands the immediate removal of

these poor people from the streets. On this latter consideration we can not afford to take a single risk.

IN VIEW of the many adverse criticisms upon the government which have been made within the past few weeks, an anonymous writer in the Jornal do Commercio of the 23rd inst., advocates repressive measures toward the press. Although occupying that part of the Jornal usually reserved for government communications, this writer is careful to disclaim all connection with the present ministry, and to urge his project as a matter of public policy, if not a matter of public necessity. As this unknown writer is clearly a man of no slight influence, and as a tendency has now and then appeared toward the adoption of this false and suicidal policy, we shall join our protest to those which are rising up against it from all parts of the empire. It is clear that this self-styled statesman has read history to little purpose when he urges this baneful measure upon the government; it is equally clear that he neither appreciates the influence of the press as an agent of progress, nor the spirit of the age which nourishes and protects it. In this country, where partial self-government is not yet fully established, where her natural resources are not yet developed, where schools, libraries and other educating agencies are yet in their infancy, and where communication with the civilized northern hemisphere is greatly restricted, a free and untrammelled press is a vital necessity. As an element of progress it is indispensable. Whatever may have been the excesses of the Brazilian press, and we must confess that we have seen none deserving of official censure, it is a factor in the development of this country which can not be prized too highly nor guarded too jealously. As for ourselves the course which we have pursued from time to time in discussing and criticising political questions has been the result of a deliberate and logical purpose to serve the interests of the foreign business community which we represent. We have been accustomed to look upon the discussion of political questions as a matter inseparable from commercial journalism. The safety and lucrativeness of investments, the security of property, the protection of personal and property rights, the profits and prosperity of mercantile enterprises—all depend closely upon the legislative and administrative acts of the government. Every interest of a business community is directly dependent upon the political government of a country. Knowing that these relations, necessary and unavoidable in all countries, existed in Brazil to an unusual degree, and in view of the unusual amount of foreign capital invested here in the various business and industrial enterprises of the country and in its financial securities, it has been our purpose from the outset to make THE NEWS a faithful and complete record of every occurrence which could directly or indirectly influence the security and profitability of these investments. Further than this we have no interest in this or that party, in this or that ministry. Personal animus we can not have; the purpose of entering into any partisan issue, or of opposing any ministry on partisan grounds has not formed, nor will it form any part of our programme. In such matters our position is strictly and logically independent. We claim the right, as we stand ready to defend the propriety, of discussing and criticising every political act of the government which may affect, directly or indirectly, the interests of English and American investments in Brazil. We are in duty bound to record every legislative and administrative act which increases or decreases the risks on investments of foreign capital, and wherever an act or occurrence does not fully explain itself, and does not point out clearly the results which will follow, we are under the same obligations to give the information lacking. When we can not do this thoroughly and independently, there will be no further need for us here; we shall close our doors. Should the Brazilian government ever commit the fatal error of adopting the repressive measures advocated by this writer and announce to the world that a free press will be tolerated no longer here, that independent comment on public affairs must be discontinued, and that newspapers must hereafter conform to the wishes of this or that ministry in their criticisms, it will be able to find no better medium for the announcement than our columns. We feel,

however, that this purpose forms no part in the programme, of the present ministry. Disagreeable as our criticisms may sometimes be, no minister can justly object to them on the grounds which we have taken; we espouse the cause of no opposing party; we ignore every personal issue involved. We can have no personal ambitions outside of our profession; nor will we be influenced by any private grudge. We simply record the occurrences of the day and criticise them as the interests we represent may dictate. This right of criticism is one of the safeguards of a free people, and it is a right guaranteed by the highest laws of nearly all the most advanced nations. We are confident that the Brazilian government will not take the unwise course of suppressing or abridging it. It is just that a journal should be held accountable for any transgression of its legitimate work, and such accountability no conscientious journal will shirk in the slightest degree; beyond this it is unsafe to admit the justice or policy of any interference.

RAILWAY ACCIDENT.

A very serious accident occurred on the Dom Pedro II road on the morning of the 18th inst. The express train going west when between Pomal and Barra Mansa was thrown from the track causing the death of one person and seriously wounding many others. The causes, circumstances, etc., are given in the report of the director of the road made to the prime minister.

Between Pomal and Barra Mansa the railway runs along the right bank of the Paralyala river, and at the place where the accident occurred there is a wagon road between the track and the river. The bed of the railway is formed just above decomposed rocks and sand, the track being about four meters above the wagon road. At this same place a culvert passes under the embankment, carrying the water from the opposite side of the road into the river. The heavy rains which had fallen on the 17th and 18th had caused quite a volume of water to flow through this culvert, and in this connection with the water of the river had thoroughly soaked the embankment forming the bed of the road causing it to break and slide away, leaving the track, especially on the side next the river, without the necessary support. The grass and weeds however growing over the embankment held the surface together so that to all appearances the road was as sound as usual.

At half past seven in the morning of the same day a mixed way-train of thirty-one cars passed over the road without accident and without observing anything extraordinary in its appearance. When the express train came along at half past nine the locomotive passed the place, but was immediately jerked back by the cars which rolled down upon the wagon road. The engine driver could not have observed anything wrong previous to the accident, for he did not whistle down brakes, or give any other sign of having seen the danger. The engine and tender were thrown over on the side, the cattle cars and the baggage and mail vans were almost entirely destroyed, one first and one second class car were left up side down, while a small first class car, the last one in the train was but slightly injured. One passenger was killed outright, and about thirty were wounded, sixteen of them severely and fourteen slightly. The engine driver, an Englishman whose name is given as Tui, and two other persons died the next day. Mr. Malasky of São Paulo was slightly wounded. Dr. Rocha Leão who was in the rear car saved himself by leaping through the window. Several ladies in the same car were unhurt. The wounded were sent to Barra Mansa where they were properly cared for. It is said that all the animals in the cattle cars were killed. The telegraph line was broken by the accident, and communications interrupted for some time. The train due in Rio at 8 1/2 arrived at 11:30. As soon as Dr. Passos, the director of the road, knew of the accident he took a special train and went to the scene accompanied by the engineer and the chief of traffic. Employees were contacted and the road repaired with as little delay as possible.

RAILROAD NOTES.

- It takes three days to run a railroad in Brazil.
—They have begun laying the rails for a tramway in the city of Ceará.
—2,067 rails have arrived at Pernambuco for the Linoeiro railway.
—The Niteroi and Campos railway is to be leased or sold in a few days at public auction.
—The Dom Pedro II railway has taken charge of the União e Indústria road.
—A Montevideo paper says that Francisco Bravo goes to London to organize a company for building a railway to connect Paraguay and Bolivia.
—Work will begin on the Paraná railway as soon as the chief engineer arrives from Europe. He is expected this month.
—The studies for the railway from Pernambuco to Victoria have been completed. It will probably cost about three thousand contos to build it.
—Nineteen kilometers more of the Paulista road were opened to traffic on the 15th inst. The track is now laid to the banks of the Mogy-Gussau river.
—The engineers of the Compagnie Générale who are to begin work on the Coritiba road, left Bordeaux on the 29th inst. on board the Girondo.
—Permission has been granted the Cachambé tramway company of this city to build two branches to their line. With these additions they will have about ten kilometers of track.

LOCAL NOTES

- There were five deaths from yellow fever on the 21st inst.
—The minister of war has appointed a commission to report on the advisability of adopting hospital tents.
—Another Portuguese has been naturalized in Brazil.
—The City of Pará left Pernambuco on the 23rd coming south.
—Mr. Charles H. Linklater left for Southampton on the 24th on board the Minho.
—The experiments with and discussion about turfa and turfa gas must annul the gas factory at Bahia.
—The report of the stecca relief commission of this city, organized May 7, 1877, shows that the total receipts were 210,666\$630.
—Some of the halls of the national museum being under repair, public exhibitions are temporarily suspended.
—A passenger on one of the Nietleroy ferry boats attempted suicide by jumping overboard. He was rescued and a collection taken up for him.
—The minister of empire Sr. Sodre being in very poor health his charge has been temporarily given to Sr. Alfonso V. Celso, minister of finance.
—The Carris Urbanos tramway company has begun running cars from the Lapa directly to the Dom Pedro II railway station.
—Quarantine at the River Plate has been reduced from fifteen to ten days.
—The French packet Senegal which arrived at this port from Bordeaux on the 8th inst. made the voyage in 18 days, including a call at Bahia of 52 hours.
—A concert is to be given in benefit of the mother of Minetti, one of the men killed in the Rua Uruguanana on the 1st.
—The chief of police is said to have called the officers of the carnival societies into his presence lately and requested them to make no allusions to the government in the approaching carnival.
—The greatest journal in the empire loudly denounces the coffee in one column, and in another admits advertisements for missresses, answers to which may be left at the office of the said journal.
—Dr. Bicalho, chief engineer of the Gabrielli works, having had a misunderstanding with Mr. Gabrielli, directed a circular to the other engineers and sub-contractors on the 21st inst. which caused the resignation of eight more doctors.
—The frigate Amazonas and the iron-clad Sald de Saldora arrived in this port on the 17th. The Vidal Oliveira is reported to have been recalled, and when all forces are concentrated here that winter will be paid and no questions asked.
—The minister of empire has authorized the employment of men at 2\$ per day, in case of the breaking out of yellow fever in this city, to disinfect all house where there have been cases of that disease.
—The suit brought by Dr. Ferreira de Menezes against the first delegado of police was not begun on the 22nd, for the reason that the witnesses had not been cited. We wonder what the next reason will be.
—Judging from the frequency with which the name of Isaias Propheta dos Anjos appears in the list of lodgers at the police station, that prophetic soul is rather poorly provided with private board and lodgings.
—Here comes the turfa gas again. We began to think it was time for some one to rediscover this coal. It and its wonderful qualities have been discovered about once a year on an average for the last ten years.
—If it were not possible to hold all officials responsible for their acts before the criminal courts, we might not possibly escape some of the arbitrary and indefensible acts which have not lately characterized their treatment of the people whom they are not supposed to serve.
—Professor O. A. Derby, director of the geological section of the national museum, and who accompanied Col. W. Milnor Roberts on his trip up the Rio São Francisco, is now on his way from Diamantina to Rio where he will probably arrive in about a month from this date.
—The total number of deaths in this city during the first fifteen days of the present month was 495, or an average of 33 per day. The number of deaths from yellow fever during the same period was 38, from pernicious fever 20, from other fevers 11, and from consumption 83.
—In a circular of the 15th inst. the chief of police notifies his subordinates that they should proceed to obtain information on the qualification of voters for the use of the board of qualification, to meet shortly, but that they should preserve strict impartiality.
—On the morning of the 6th inst. a policeman found the body of a black man in the Mangue canal, at the Traveza do Porto, which was afterwards recognized as that of a slave named Nicomedes. Various wounds were found upon the man's head, showing that he had been murdered.
—The government has appointed a committee to see to the execution of the regulations regarding newly arrived immigrants. It is their desire to keep these immigrants free from all expenses which may lead to yellow fever and other fevers usual here at this season of the year.
—The Capira in his letters in the Jornal is speaking with what he calls a "brutal freedom" about the yellow fever. He remarks that the silence of the press and false obituary reports cannot subdue the fever, and that such a course will only sacrifice the population of the city and the foreigners who come here, deluded by official falsehood and by the press.

- The minister of marine resumed the duties of his office on the 23rd.
—The Visconde de Figueiredo expects to make a trip to Europe, leaving Rio some time in Feb.
—A couple of authors have written a parody on Aida called Aida Junior. It will be played at the Phoenix.
—The total amount received by the commission charged with raising funds for the erection of a monument to General Osorio, up to the 24th inst., was 63,178\$500.
—The law for closing the doors of business houses on Sundays and holidays was put into execution on the 20th. Among certain classes there is considerable dissatisfaction with this law and meetings are announced for considering the subject.
—São Paulo is also exporting calves. They are brought over here to Rio, put in the house of detention and then given five days to leave the country. Two of them left for Chill on the 24th for which Chill is very much obliged deus é.
—The official meteorological report for the month of December, just published, gives the maximum temperature at 93.74° F.; minimum, 66.74° F.; average for the month, 75.05° F. There were thirteen days during which rain fell, the total rainfall being 169.20 millimeters.
—A passenger who left Rio on the 9th inst. on the French steamer Senegal died on board at Buenos Ayres. The case was suspected of being yellow fever, and the board of health of that city sent off two physicians who reported that it was very suspicious. The body was taken out and buried at sea, and ten days more of quarantine imposed on the Senegal.
—We hear great complaints about the delay and confusion on the part of the custom house in clearing goods arrived at the end of the last year. Goods arrived since then can be cleared with comparative facility, while the former are ever eluding the grasp of the anxious importer, who is wondering, should the month be exceeded, if he will be called upon to pay extra amaranagem.
—They are looking after their pretty sharply now-a-days in the imperial astronomical observatory. The morning papers generally inform us of what the weather was the day before, the direction of the wind, the nature of the clouds, the appearance of the sky and of the sun. Now if there is any one thing that the community desires to know more than another it is what the weather was yesterday.
—A circular issued by the board of directors of the Amazon Steam Navigation Co., dated London, Dec. 22, 1879, explains to the share-holders that the renewal of the contract, with slurs, between that company and the Brazilian government was not ratified by the last General Assembly, and that, consequently, no dividends can be paid. The circulars also state that should the ratification be delayed much longer the company will be obliged to suspend.
—The unfortunate immigrants who were exposed to sun and rain in the Praia Dom Pedro II were taken to a police station by order of the subdelegado of the Candelaria. But the police station being too small to hold them all, the subdelegado asked advice of the chief of police, and the chief of police addressed a dispatch to the minister of justice. Meanwhile the wretched people were without shelter and would have been without food had not the subdelegado taken it upon himself to give it them.
—The Brazilian friends of the late Mr. Chas. B. Greenough in their desire to honor his memory intended having a mass said for his soul in the church at the Largo do Machado. But the ecclesiastical authorities refused to allow the mass because Mr. Greenough was a Protestant. One of the papers of the city in speaking of the matter remarks that the church didn't remember that he was a Protestant when it accepted his money, but now that he can no longer give money, it suddenly remembers that there is something wrong.
—It is announced that Sr. Favilla Nunes, a custom house official, has invented a motor which uses neither steam, water, wind, springs, nor animal force. The invention is complete with the exception that the application of the motive force can not be reversed. It is said to be specially adapted to the propulsion of street cars, and will cost only 200\$ for each car. The only drawback is that the machine would in a short time run all the street cars out of the city, and then there would be no revenue on passenger travel.
—Another attack has been made on that great national industry—the manufacture of artificial wines—about which so much has been written of late. In accordance with a complaint made by F. Saunwen & Co., representatives in this city of the well-known wine exporter Arnaud, a cart was apprehended on the 24th inst. with a large quantity of falsified wine bearing Arnaud's labels. These wines are known to have been manufactured in Rua do Passio where several large establishments of this character are located. Men have not been lacking to defend the manufacture of falsified wines because certain national products were consumed in the process; we now await their defense of this use of foreign labels.
—We have received the first number of the second volume of the Revista de Engenharia. This periodical has been greatly enlarged and improved, and Dr. José Americo dos Santos has joined Dr. Picango on the editorial staff. In a country where civil engineering, besides its acknowledged utility to all classes, is so fashionable, the Revista should receive the hearty support of every engineer in the empire. We hope it will combine with its technical treatment of scientific subjects a popularizing of many interesting and valuable truths which are generally looked upon in Brazil as being beyond the grasp of minds which have not had the benefits of an advanced education. Dr. Santos brings to the paper rare practical ability, combined with a technical education which enables him to do this class of work remarkably well.

PROVINCIAL NOTES

A Brazilian lady died recently in Paraná at the age of 123. The cattle trade at the River Plate is animated and prices pretty high. Dissatisfaction is manifested in the province of Minas at the impost on tobacco. Sr. Gaspar da Silveira Martins is now in Porto Alegre and is recovering his health. The usual number of murders, suicides and robberies are being committed in the provinces. The provincial assembly of Minas has voted 2000\$ for their monument to General Orosio. The province of Minas has given 6000\$ to be used on the road from Popo de Caldas to São Paulo. The Baptystians promise not to change its politics without fair warning to its subscribers. Dr. Elias F. C. Jordão has resigned the office of chief engineer of public works of the province of São Paulo. It is again proposed to start a line of steamers between the province of Pará and French Guyana. Of course it will want a subsidy. During the year 1879 the province of Ceará sent away 1925 slaves, against 2909 in 1878. It has exported 9745 since 1872. A new iron foundry is about to be started at Pitangui in Minas. It will be in charge of Thomas J. Wood, an able English mechanic. A sale of 950 mules at Palmeira, Rio Grande do Sul, about the middle of December, realized 488000 a head. The receipts of the Rio Grande custom house during the past year were 2,614,520\$461 against 2,091,376\$848 in 1878. The Gazeta de Pernambuco congratulates the Gazeta da Noite on its reappearance. We would do so too, but we don't dare. The municipal council of Campinas has voted to take 125 copies of a Portuguese grammar which is soon to be published. The Agartas have made their appearance in great numbers on the island of Santo Amaro, Santos, and are doing great damage in the mandioca fields. In 1877 the number of slaves exported from Rio de Janeiro from Pernambuco was 1,271, in 1878 the number increased to 1,077, and in 1879 to 2,212. The Ypanema iron works, São Paulo, were visited by the sections of mineralogy and metallurgy of the Polytechnic School on the 15th inst. The number of cattle received at the slaughterhouses of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, up to the 6th inst. was 16,474 head. The receipts of the Maccio custom house for 1879 were 463,708\$743 against 445,408\$066 for 1878. The Gazeta de Porto Alegre says that a pestilence is raging among the cattle at Taquarémulo which is causing serious losses. A soldier of the 1st regiment named Villar was found in a lathing place at S. Gabriel, Rio Grande do Sul, one day last month, strangled, stabbed and shackled. The province of Minas has given a twenty years privilege to Celestino Gaspar d'Oliveira for the navigation of the Rio das Mortes, between the village of Barroso and the city of Bom Jesus. The receipts of the Bahia custom house for 1879 were 8,207,406\$824, of the general collector's office 733,789\$713, and of the provincial collector's office 1,148,382\$432. According to a police report João Ignacio Bryana was assassinated on the 15th ult., at Garanhuns, Pernambuco, by five sons of Francisco Leite das Chagas. The assassins escaped. A planter writing to the Diario de Santos says the flowering season for the coffee is past, and that he can no longer without hesitation that the coffee crop will be extremely small this year. The exportation of oranges from the province of Ceará has more than doubled within the last three years. In 1876 there were exported 1308 boxes, and in 1879, 3263 boxes. The merchants of Porto Alegre, province of Rio Grande have represented against the extremely embarrassing and annoying impost of one and a half per cent. on all merchandise taken from one part of the province to another. According to the Revista Gahrielleza, of São Gabriel, Rio Grande do Sul, three individuals last month were raising men in Brazilian territory for an invasion of Uruguay. The Brazilian authorities interfered and broke up the bands already collected. The Gazeta do Povo of São Paulo states that it has received by letters from Rio that Dr. Arizides da Silveira Lobo is going to denounce Dr. Pindalhy, chief of police, before the supreme tribunal for the deeds of Jan. 1, and the days immediately following. During the year of 1879, 932 persons entered the hospital of Porto Alegre for treatment 755 of them recovered, and 199 died. The largest number of deaths from any one disease was 39 from small-pox; 32 of lung diseases, and 18 of diphtheria. The president of Minas Gerais has been authorized to guarantee seven per cent interest on a capital of 600,000\$ for building furnaces on the Praca da making iron, and putting up machinery for the adapting of iron and steel to ordinary industrial uses. The furnaces must be able to turn out at least two tons of iron per day. The Germania heard a report that the German consul had demanded a large sum for the heirs of Vagelahn, one of the men killed by the soldiers in the Uruguyanana on the 1st. The Constituinte, the government organ of São Paulo, remarks that the sum mentioned for a Jew, a disorderly deportee often, is not a bad piece of business.

A telegram from Corytiba, province of Paraná, tells of an editor having his house broken into by the public force and himself carried away to jail. He has probably been saying that twice two are four, or publishing some such incendiary and seditious ideas. Germania, the organ of the Germans of São Paulo, referring to the event of the beginning of the year in this city, says that the government continues to violate the constitution. Referring to the treatment of the Gazeta da Noite it says that the conduct of the government constitutes a direct and gross violation of the liberty of the press. When the police arrested the wrong man in Campinas the other day they amused themselves by giving him a good poun- ing. The Gazeta seems to think they did wrong, but we would like to know what policemen are for if not to pound people. We should be very sorry to see civil proceedings instituted against the authorities. From São João da Barra comes news of caterpillars destroying the mandioca, and the discouragement of the inhabitants. If the people in the tobacco producing parts of the United States sat down and wept at the caterpillars the tobacco crop would be a failure every year. It don't require much skill to know that these worms. Mr. Edward Rand an American naturalist has reached Manaus on his trip across the continent from Pará. The papers from the Amazonas say that Mr. Rand has with him a collection of parasites numbering over four thousand. He is said to have over 400 pages of manuscript on his explorations of the Amazon. Works upon the port of Maranhão are ordered to be suspended at the end of this month. The captain of the port has been directed by the President of the province to preserve the machinery and tools used in this work in good repair, and to make out a report of what has been accomplished and the money spent in the work. When the central sugar factory of the Ilharo de Oliveira was inaugurated at Bom Jardim, Bahia, on the 22d inst., thirty-five planters administered a commission to present the Baron an oral portrait of himself;—than which nothing could have been more appropriate. And we are glad that such things are considered of sufficient general interest to be announced by telegram. The Gazeta de Porto Alegre speaking of the higher education of women in Brazil says: It is time to do away with the prejudice which confines the fair sex to simple domestic labors and does not allow her to follow an independent career. The social reforms of the future loudly demand that woman prepare herself at once for the new position which she must occupy in society. Porto Alegre exported, directly to foreign ports 512,526\$000 worth of produce during the year 1879. Of this 216,357\$000 was for tobacco, 71,826\$000 for farinha, 61,435\$000 for hides, 45,618\$000 for herba. The other articles exported were corn, cedar boards, rum, horns and sundries. Besides what is exported directly a large number of hides is sent to Rio Grande where they are shipped abroad. When the Jornal of Porto Alegre learned that the minister of war had requested the minister of agriculture to have a telegraph line put up between that city and Santa Victoria, it remarked that that was a great convenience from a military point of view in case of an invasion upon that defenseless frontier. We hope the Jornal will not lose sleep over that invasion. The retail dry goods merchants of Pelotas, Rio Grande do Sul, presented a proposition to the importers of Rio Grande that they should only sell in the cities of Pelotas and Jaguarão, declaring that in case of their refusal, they would hereafter make their purchases in Rio, Montevideo and Porto Alegre. The importers told the dealers to go west. As Raymundo Borges da Silva, an old man of seventy years, was returning home from mass with his wife and little daughter, at Arronches, Ceará, on the 24th ult., he was attacked by two cut-throats, Antonio and Joaquim Ferreira, and killed. There seemed to be no other reason for the crime than that the murderers hated their victim for being a quiet, law-abiding citizen. Mr. Eduardo Arthur is now advertising his great American exposition in the provincial papers. We have such an unbounded confidence in this enterprise that we recommend our friends to read the Rio News of the 14th inst. where some facts are given about the late Portuguese exposition held in this city and the fabulous fortunes made by its shareholders. David Bellinfanti was killed at Campinas on the evening of the 12th inst. while in the house of one João Maria. He was engaged in a quarrel with João Maria, and three friends named Antonio Benedito do Amaral Jr., Bento de Arreda and Flaminio Augusto de Almeida. The latter confesses that he struck the fatal blow. Bellinfanti was a partner in the firm of Bellinfanti & Silva. The president of the province of Ceará has issued a dispatch directing the refugees to return to their homes in time to do their planting. Eight days were given them to set upon their journeys after which time further government support would be denied them in the city. They were to be furnished with rations and clothing for the journey. After the eight days only captives and the infirm were to be allowed in the tents which had been furnished by the government. The Artists of Rio Grande issued a supplement to its regular edition on the 8th in which it gives an account of the disturbances in this city, and in a short editorial says: "The responsibility of all these crimes committed by the soldier savages cannot fall to rest upon the chief authorities of the capital, for according to the papers received, the public force had orders to arrest, and if there were sins to kill. This was reserved to the ministry of Srs. Lafayette, Siminbá, and Afonso Celso."

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