

THE RIO NEWS.

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VOL. VII.

RIO DE JANEIRO, 'SEPTEMBER 24th, 1880

NUMBER 27

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OFFICIAL COFFEE SPECULATION.

The discussion of the budget of the min-
ister of finance, on the 17th inst., was the
occasion of the long expected explanation
of ex-Minister Afonso Celso regarding his
purchase and shipment of coffee on account
of the government last February and March.
As this explanation involves some new and
novel theories of constitutional government
we reproduce the more interesting parts of
the speech as delivered. In reply to Sen-
ator Corrêa, who had criticised the transac-
tion, Senator Afonso Celso said:

I am glad that the noble senator from Paraná has
treated of the purchase and shipment of coffee, on
account of the government, to the markets of
Europe and the United States. 'Tis act, effected
with the previous knowledge and express consent
of all my colleagues of the ministry, has served as a
pretext for censure and injuries against myself. . . .
Until to-day I have had no occasion to explain
myself before the chamber to which I belong; the
noble senator, having afforded it, renders me a
service for which I thank him.
The government was obliged to remit funds to
Europe, and exchange was at 19½. It is clear
that if the treasury had gone into the market to take
bills, to buy exchange, the depression would have
been greater, and then the prejudice would have
been greater. The pound sterling which had
already cost 12\$549, when it ought to have cost
scarcely 8\$889, would have cost 12\$632 or
more; the prejudice which was already almost 26
per cent., would have been elevated to almost 30
per cent., and this in hundreds or thousands of
contos.

I considered the means of avoiding this prejudice,
which would fall not only the treasury but upon
commerce and all classes in general, and it occurred
to me that if Paraguay could, not many years ago,
make in Europe the augmented expenditures re-
quired by her great armaments, if Peru had found
in guano a secure and easy means for making her
remittances of funds, if in times less difficult the
government had remitted to Europe, to be there
sold on its own account, such products as cotton,
sugar, indigo, etc., which through their inferiority
could not compare with similar products from other
places, some advantage could be derived from our
chief article of export, coffee, which does not fear
such a challenge that competition.
I explained this idea to my colleagues of the
ministry; they discussed it exhaustively and, con-
vinced not only of its legality but also of its con-
venience, they all assented and expressly authorized
me to put it into execution.

The noble senator from Paraná says that my act
could be justified only by an express authorization
of law, and that the only authorization by law was
the purchase of exchange. If the legality of the
act depends upon an express disposition of law then
the purchase of exchange itself, which the noble
senator accepts as perfectly correct, is also illegal,
because the law does not authorize it. Since it was
the opinion of the noble senator that the operation
of buying exchange is legal, although there is no
law which establishes this method for the remit-
tance of funds, it is necessary to acknowledge that
the purchase of merchandise can be legal also,
without prohibition from the want of a law which
expressly and positively permits it. From this
there is no escape—either both operations are
legal or neither one is, because the law treats of
neither of them.

The noble senator from Paraná, notwithstanding
his great talents, has not demonstrated, nor can he
demonstrate the illegality of my act, and I am
going to prove it. The government is obliged to
always have large disposable sums in London, be-
cause all of our foreign expenses are paid there.
These sums are remitted by the treasury and no
law prescribes the form or nature of the operations
to be made for this remittance of funds. In this
respect no law exists, nor could it exist without
absurdity and without exposing the treasury to
great prejudices. The convenience, the accuracy,
and the possibility of any financial operation what-
ever can only be judged on the occasion of realizing
it, because all depend on the circumstances of the
moment. An operation to-day fortunate may be
to-morrow ruinous, and vice versa. Fix beforehand
the nature of transactions which the government
ought to realize for the transmission of funds, and
speculation which is vigilant and sagacious, will
discover means to check them and to cause losses
always. It is one of those cases in which the
government should be left unconditionally all liberty
of action, even though it should be held responsible
for what it does in injury to the state. Badly plan-
ned, unwise, ruinous the operation may have been;
illegal, no! On the contrary the legality is indis-
putable.

Furthermore, how are the operations made, or in
what do they ordinarily consist, by means of which
the government remits funds to Europe? Every
time it takes exchange in the market, that one
knows; it takes exchange in money or credit
in Europe, and remits them to its agents for which
they receive its value on the day of maturity. The
letter, or bill, or exchange, as is generally known,
is a true article of merchandise, subject like all
others to fluctuations in price, when the government
purchases for drawing money in the market of

London. Now, if the government buys bills for
this end, and no one contests this right—although,
let it be noted, there is no express law authorizing
the purchase, can it not then purchase, in place of
bills, other articles of merchandise also easily trans-
ferable into gold? If we have colonial products
which sold in foreign markets produce an amount
not only equal but superior to that employed in the
acquisition, for what motive should the purchase of
bills be always invariably preferred to those
products?

On the succeeding day the prime minister,
Counselor Saraiya, referred to the coffee
speculation of his predecessor in the follow-
ing terms:

My opinion, Mr. President, was expressly de-
clared in the other chamber. I said there that the
operation was legal, that there is no law prohibiting
this means of remitting money to London, and
that the government has full right to choose the
way that may seem to it best in remitting money to
foreign countries, as was done under present legis-
lation by the illustrious expulsi of finance. The
question is simply one of convenience.
As to the question of legality I have not the
slightest doubt. It may be that, knowing that the
operation in coffee will be of great advantage to
the government, I shall not hesitate in some day as-
suming the responsibility and doing it as did the
noble ex-minister of finance. I may do it, or not,
according to circumstances.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The preliminary work on the Conde d'Eu
railway, of Parahyba, began on the 9th ult.

—Two vessels, the bark *Ocean-Rover* and brig
Damules, have arrived at Parahyba with material
for the Conde d'Eu railway.

—The July receipts of the Feira de Sant'Anna
branch of the Central Bahia railway were 10,707\$290
and the expenditures 10,537\$060.

—The August receipts of the "Macahé e Cam-
pos" railway were 125,199\$590. The number of
passengers carried was 2,548. The freight traffic
included 2,774.2 tons of coffee and 2,046.7 tons
of sugar.

—The provincial government of Pará has con-
tracted with Mr. Henry Olivier for three bridges
for the road between the port of Bemfica and the
Benedict colony. The bridges are respectively
35, 15, and 36 metres in length and are to cost
20,820\$.

—The contracts for furnishing rails and rolling
stock for the "Estrada de Ferro de Bahia e Minas"
have been signed, and work will begin on the
road-bed during the month of February next. This
road runs from Caravelas on the coast, in the province
of Bahia, to Philadelphia, in the province of
Minas Geraes, and was formerly known as the
Caravelas and Philadelphia railway.

—There seems to be an anxiety, not to say lit-
terness, in the report of the fiscal engineer of the
Valenciana railway to the minister of agriculture
on the condition of this road. If sleepers, road-bed,
rails and rolling stock were in the ruinous condition
he reports them to be, it is manifest to the mere tyro
in railway matters that an empty train could not
pass from one end of the line to the other. The
directory have protested against the report.

—The cheapest service in the world is that ren-
dered by the great railways of the United States in
transporting freight. During 1879 the average rate
per ton per mile received by thirteen trunk lines
was only one cent and two-hundredths, while on
several of these roads the average was below
eight-tenths of a cent, the Lake Shore & Michigan
Southern going as low as sixty-four hundredths of
a cent. Ever since 1873 the annual average has
been downward, and that without compulsion by
legislatures.—*Engineering News*, Aug. 7.

—R. Von Krüger, the ex-chief engineer of the
Paulo Afonso railway, is charged by the minister of
agriculture, on the authority of a report made by the
present chief engineer, with dereliction of duty in
the matter of avoiding contracts, without conforming
to the provisions of the law and general practice
by advertising for proposals, thus paying a higher
price for sleepers, etc., than they might have been
obtained for. Mr. Krüger defends himself in the
journals by quoting documents and stating circum-
stances, alleging prejudice and strong personal feel-
ings as motives on the part of the minister of agri-
culture and the present chief engineer of the railway.

—According to statistics issued under the direc-
tion of the Secretary of the Treasury there have
been constructed in the United States since 1830
railroads that at the end of 1878 amounted to
81,818 miles of aggregate length. At the end of
1830 there were twenty-three miles of railroad in
the country; at the end of 1878 there were 81,841
miles. The greatest number of miles constructed
in any one year was in 1871, when 7,379 miles
were added to the railroad system of the country.
No year since 1865 has seen less than one thousand
miles built and no year since 1849 with the excep-
tion of 1861, 1862 and 1864, whose contributions
were respectively 651 miles, 834 miles and 738
miles. The only years in which more than three
thousand miles have been built were 1856, 3,642
miles; 1869, 4,615 miles; 1870, 6,070 miles; 1871,
7,379 miles; 1872, 5,868 miles; 1873, 5,878 miles;
1873, 4,107 miles.—*Engineering News*, July 10.

THE TIETÉ PRINTWORKS.

Ytd. Sept. 18, 1880.

Mr. Editor:

I have read the communication in your
last number on "The Projected Printworks
on the River Tieté," with much interest,
because it concerns a new industry which
it is proposed to locate in Brazil, but I must
confess to a disappointment both in the
manner and matter of the writer. Who is
this "An Importer" that he should throw
ridicule on a new industry not until now
tried and tested here? What right has he to
question an enterprise which seeks to utilize
national products and to make Brazil less
dependent upon foreign manufacturers? It
is very likely that our cotton factories
and this projected printworks will take much
from the business which "An Importer"
represents, but as that benefits the country
in which he has no other interest than his
business, what right has he to make objec-
tions? He is not asked to invest his capital
and he has nothing to lose by it but a small
part of his trade. If other men think that
the enterprise will be successful, and are
willing to invest their money in it, then let
them do it and we will afterwards see which
is right.

I have read the prospectus of the company
and can see no cause for "An Importer's"
criticism. It is proposed to import white cot-
tons first because São Paulo does not to-day
grow cotton sufficient for the business. It
is well known that the very best cotton can
be grown in São Paulo, and the company is
confident that when the factory is put up
the planters will begin to produce it. Every-
thing will then be done on the spot, and it
is clear that the saving in transportation,
duties and importers' profits will enable the
company to sell its goods, much better in
quality because of the superior cotton raised
here, at a much lower price than those
imported.

As no one ever interfered with the build-
ing of factories in "Importer's" own coun-
try, either one mile or one hundred miles
from a sea-port, I can not see why he
should have anything to say against this
project. Brazil proposes to make herself
independent of foreign manufacturers and
to utilize her own great natural resources,
and therefore every new industry like the
"Tieté printworks" will be welcomed with
open arms, and the enterprising foreigner
who comes to us with his capital and skill
will find us ready to receive him with a royal
hospitality.

In concluding I must beg your indulgence
for this intrusion, but as your independence
and impartiality are so well known I have
ventured to send you my protest against the
unwarranted criticism of your prejudiced
and interested correspondent.

VITANA.

To the Editor of the Rio News:

Sir,—The remarks of Importer, which
perhaps he thinks very funny reminds me
of the party who was so sharp that he cut
himself. If cotton cannot be got in the
province on advantageous terms where do
the S. Paulo mills get it! and if Brazil
produces cotton why should it not be
printed in the country! If I wanted to
pick holes in his letter I could easily do
it, how about the gauge being broken four
times when it is only three, and tho' he
calls the directors "airy nothings" he will
find out in time who they are, as he will
about "batistes and figured cambrics not
being taken in hand in the early stages of
the enterprise," and tho' he tries to make out
that exchange is not likely to be at the par
of 27d. again there are those who don't
agree with him. It shows how carelessly
Importer has read the prospectus, for he
talks of £15,000 being paid for the prop-
erty and it is only £8,000, and Importer
may envy the directors their complacency
but he will see some day that other parties
know what they are about.

YOURS, ETC.

IMPARTIAL OBSERVER.

Rio de Janeiro, 17th Sept., 1880.

AN EMANCIPATION LOAN.

Messrs. Editors:—I have been read-
ing your editorial upon the action of the
ministry with relation to emancipation, and
it meets my views exactly. It is clear that
slavery is at the bottom of nearly all the
evils in Brazil, and it is equally clear that
there can be no decided improvement until
it has been abolished. I believe, with
yourself, that delays will not help matters
in the least and that the wisest course
will be to meet the difficulty at once and
settle it forever.

In my opinion the one great difficulty in
the way of immediate emancipation is the
pecuniary loss to the slave-owners. They
have been accustomed to look upon the
slave as property, and many depend upon
his labor for their income. Unconditional
abolition would be a hardship to such
people. To meet this difficulty the owners of
slaves must be paid their value, and this
will undoubtedly remove a great part of the
objections now urged.

It is clear, however, that Brazil is in no
position to emancipate the million and more
slaves now owned by her citizens. She has
not the money, and her present income will
not permit her to meet an increased indebt-
edness contracted under the ordinary condi-
tions. To overcome this obstacle, it seems
to me that sufficient aid might be rendered
by England to enable Brazil to carry out
immediate emancipation. As England has
always been foremost in all emancipation
movements, from the suppression of the
slave traffic in every part of the world to the
liberation of her own slaves at an enormous
expense, she certainly could not refuse to
assist a sister nation in a similar effort.
England is rich and prosperous, and she
has an unconcealed abhorrence of slavery;
Brazil is poor and unable to indemnify her
people for their slaves. Why, then, could
not England lend a helping hand to Brazil
by loaning her a sufficient amount, on
easy terms, to make this necessary indem-
nification? Emancipation could then go
on at once and Brazil would be freed from
that abhorrent institution forever. The
amount required would be insignificant
compared with England's wealth; moreover,
the loan would be a practical application
of all her well-known anti-slavery principles.
I can not doubt that England—the
foremost anti-slavery nation of the world—
would readily and cheerfully render the
needed assistance. And then, too, the
United States, France, and other emancipat-
ing nations, might also contribute to the good
cause.

The removal of this stain upon the civiliza-
tion of to-day, the philanthropic aid rendered
to an unfortunate people, and the great
benefits to the commercial world sure to
follow could not fail to warrant the practi-
cal realization of this project.

WILHELFORCE.

Rio de Janeiro, 20th September, 1880.

In the first four months of 1880 the receipts for
telegrams in France have been increased by 1,500,
000, but the postal department lost one-sixth of
that amount. The result shows that owing to the
low rate of telegrams in France (12d per word)
and the increased postage (1½d. per letter) tele-
graphy is gradually taking the place of ordinary
letters.—*Nature*.

The *Sanita Observer*, of June 22, says that nearly
60,000 Canadians had crossed into the United States
at that place—the western terminus of the Grand
Trunk railway—during the preceding eight months.
As the *Observer* is a Canadian journal and the editor
says that he took pains to verify the figures, this
startling emigration must be accepted as a fact. The
late misgovernment of Canada, through its pro-
tectionist and "internal improvements" policy, is
unquestionably accountable for the greater part of
this exodus.

The following extract from *The Nation*, of July
29, will furnish some interesting figures to those
wrongly-informed deputies who have been assert-
ing that the imports of the United States exceed
their exports:—"An official statement of the foreign
trade of the whole United States for the year ending
June 30 shows that the total imports were valued at
\$667,885,595 and the total exports at \$835,793,
924. This largely exceeds the figures of any year
in the history of the country."

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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Subscription rates for one year, six months, and three months in Brazil, the United States, and Great Britain.

All subscriptions must run with the calendar year. Back numbers supplied at this office from April to 1879. Subscriptions and advertisements received at the EDITORIAL ROOMS—8 Rua São Pedro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 1880.

The action of the customs inspector, on the 21st, in prohibiting customs employees from receiving the zinc linings of packing cases, or any other effects, is worthy of general commendation. Although these things may be freely given to the employees in some instances, it too frequently occurs that they are taken without even the shadow of consent from the owner of the goods. Under the most favorable interpretation such gifts are nothing less than bribes, and as such are demoralizing in the highest degree. The customs service can be most efficient only when all merchants are treated alike, and all employees are forbidden to receive gifts or favors or to show the least partiality in the performance of their duties. The custom house is a public department, supported by public money, and should therefore be managed in the interests of the whole public. We have before complained of these practices which the inspector now forbids, and we have also complained of practices, growing out of this apparently innocent custom of receiving gifts, in which not only have the zinc linings been taken without consent, but goods have been injured by the removal of illuminated labels, and even the goods themselves have been stolen. We regret that our wide awake contemporary, the Gazeta de Notícias, has been led into condemning the inspector's action in this matter, as it certainly can not wish the continuance of the abuses which Inspector Sampaio is seeking to suppress.

We are gratified to see that the Cruziro has taken up the question of protection to national industry in good earnest and has devoted some attention to our partial discussion of that subject. On some points our colleague has mistaken our position by applying a general principle to a special case. We did not and do not assert that agriculture is Brazil's only source of wealth; we could hardly assert that of any one nation of the world. Our position is that if it can be shown that a nation has no other source of wealth, then it can not enter upon other pursuits without positive loss. It is all very fine and patriotic to talk about developing national industries and protecting them against foreign competition. But, practically, what does it all mean? Does our colleague mean to say that the establishment of one stearine candle factory in Brazil with legislative protection against foreign competition through exorbitant import duties, is developing a national industry? Are the few hat factories of this city who are to-day clamoring for legislative aid in spite of the fact that they are already protected by almost prohibitive duties, fair samples of this national industry? Are the stove foundries which import their top plates from Glasgow, the wagon shops which import their iron, springs, paint, etc., the glove factories which import their prepared skins, the biscuit factories which import their flour, the printing and lithographing establishments which import their presses, type, ink and paper, the cotton factories which import their yarns, — are all these parts of that national industry which should be protected by import duties of 50 to 100 per cent. in order to shut out foreign competition? If our colleague will look into this question closely he will find a concealed pocket somewhere about every one of these industries into which all the profits of protection ultimately find their way. Neither the government nor the people are the gainers in the transaction, for the one loses in revenue and the other in savings in order that an ill-managed or ill-chosen enterprise may produce good profits. To make one candle factory profitable every poor man in Brazil is excessively taxed, and so on through the whole list. And who is benefited?

WE ARE under many obligations to our evening contemporary, the Gazeta de Tarde, for the very flattering notice of ourselves and our anti-slavery work which appeared in its issue of the 17th instant. In advocating a cause which has as yet but few pronounced supporters in Brazil, we are conscious that there are for a time but few words of approval and many words of censure for us; the hearty commendation of our colleague, who has also undertaken the advocacy of this just principle of human freedom, is therefore as unexpected as it is pleasing. We have seen one great struggle for the abolition of slavery brought to a successful end, and in spite of the loud and repeated prophecies of evil sure to follow the suppression of enforced labor, we have seen that same great work of emancipation crowned with prosperous industries and an increase in wealth and general comfort never before known. We are confident that this same work of emancipation will produce corresponding benefits and prosperity in Brazil, and we are content, therefore, to advocate the fullest measure of immediate abolition and trust to the future for the inevitable recognition of our cause and service. Slavery is an institution which has been condemned by all the foremost nations of the civilized world; it is an institution which is passing away with the grosser phases of a barbarous and semi-civilized state of society, with which we can have no sympathy and for which we can have no regret. When, therefore, we are asked to bestow our sympathy upon those whose wealth, or support, or social position is based upon slave labor, and from whom abolition would take so large and productive a part of their capital, we can only reply that we have no sympathy to give. Our sympathies are for those who toil without recompense, who produce without profit, who live without hope and without freedom. One hundred and eight years have passed since it was judicially declared that slavery could not exist in Great Britain, seventy-three years since the abolition of the British slave trade, forty-nine years since the passage of the Brazilian anti-slave trade act, forty-six years since the final abolition of slavery throughout the British empire, nineteen years since the emancipation of serfdom in Russia, and eighteen years since emancipation was declared in the United States. All these acts have been plain indications of the spirit of modern civilization and of the final doom of slavery. Brazil has not been sleeping all these years, nor have her people been ignorant of the rapidly-growing sentiment against slave labor. And yet, the slave trade was continued clandestinely until a late day, and the country still holds a slave population of nearly one and one-half millions. The Brazilian slaveholder is deserving of no sympathy, no consideration. He has set the humane restrictions of the slave trade at defiance, and he has tightened his grip upon a downtrodden class in spite of protest and in spite of the examples of emancipation all around him. He can not have been blind to the plain fact that the day is coming, that it is near at hand, when the civilized world will no longer tolerate this gigantic evil. He has taken the risk with his eyes open, and he must abide the issue.

THE argument of the ex-minister of finance on the 17th inst. in defence of his unfortunate speculation in coffee not only affirms the right but asserts the expediency of such transactions. On the following day the prime minister and minister of finance concurred with this doctrine and explicitly stated, "it may be that, knowing that an operation in coffee will be of great advantage to the government, I shall not hesitate in some day assuming the responsibility and doing it as did the noble ex-minister of finance." We must conclude therefore that the government will continue to be a possible buyer and shipper of coffee, in competition with private parties. Because there is no express prohibition of law the late minister of finance decided that he was authorized to speculate in coffee, or any other product, and this view is accepted without reservation by the ministry now in power. This state of affairs is one which will be universally regretted. Leaving out of consideration the losses sustained in the late coffee speculation and the paralysis brought upon the market by it, the position assumed by the government is indefensible. In the first

place the plea that an omission to prohibit an act constitutes a right to perform it at pleasure, is an absurdity. The constitution of a country can not be presumed to define every possible act of a representative government; it simply concerns itself with the general principles and laws upon which the government is founded, leaving to the legislature and to the unwritten law the determination of that great mass of details which enter into its every-day administration. To prohibit every possible improper act of a ministry would be to turn a constitution into a code of laws, and would make it so unwieldy and complicated as to render it useless. Carried to its logical conclusion, the theory of the late minister of finance would warrant any kind of a speculation or enterprise on the part of the government, from the running of a barber shop or grocery store to an engagement in a general importing and exporting business, or the ownership and management of a line of mercantile steamers. There is nothing in the line of business which the government could not do, were such an absurd doctrine to be accepted. And as to the propriety or expediency of such transactions there are even less grounds for defense. In this respect there are bases for a positive denial of the existence of any such right or expediency. In the first place a government has no right to enter into competition with its people in business enterprises, as such competition can result only in loss to the latter either directly through a successful competition, or indirectly through the government's losses to which they are compelled to contribute as tax-payers. In the second place, a government has no right to invest in commercial transactions, because the funds to be invested in such pursuits are held only in trust and are the contributions of the people toward its legitimate expenses. The investment of public funds in speculative enterprises is therefore just as much a breach of trust as it would be in the case of a bank or private party who held deposits for specific purposes. In the third place, the investment of public funds in any commercial or speculative enterprise is both dangerous and immoral, because the money belongs to other parties and purposes, because the officials lack the special business training for such enterprises and are to that degree more liable to error, because such officials are practically irresponsible, and because the least latitude to public officials in such matters is sure to be attended with grave abuses. Within the limits of his legitimate functions there is quite enough matter to engage all the superabundant activity of any minister, without his intruding upon the private pursuits of those who not only pay for his official service but will also be compelled to stand the loss arising from his extra-official enterprises. Outside of those limits his capacity for mischief is simply unbounded. If he can buy and sell coffee, so can he buy and sell real estate, mining stock, shares and securities, merchandise, mining property, or anything else which may suit his fancy. He can also carry on a banking business, and a loan business, and a pawnbroking business. He can risk millions without personal responsibility, and he can lose them without personal hardship. Although Counselor Saraiva announces his adherence to this pernicious doctrine it is to be hoped that he will find it expedient to avoid carrying it into practice. The miscarriage of one speculation should be sufficient warning for the discontinuance of the practice, even if he can not bring himself to an explicit renunciation of the theory upon which it is founded.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

The work effected in the Senate since our last issue has been almost wholly confined to the various departmental budgets and estimates, showing that the private legislation had been quite finished before the legislature settled down to the consideration of public business. The extraordinary credit of 1,352,483,470 asked by the minister of agriculture for the purpose of emancipating all the remaining state colonies during 1880-81 and 1881-82, finally passed the Senate on the 14th inst. The supplementary credit of 218,460,535 to the department of justice also passed 3rd reading on the same day. The general revenue budget was received from the Chamber on the 14th, entered into discussion in 2nd reading on the 17th and passed 3rd reading with amendments on the 20th. In the discussion of this bill on the 17th Senator Affonso Celso took occasion to reply to the criticisms of Senator Corrêa on his official acts as minister of finance in the preceding cabinet. He defended his speculation in coffee as both legal and expedient and argued that there was no difference in principle between buying coffee and

THE BRAZIL COFFEE TRADE

buying bills of exchange. He also defended his reissue of 2,400,000 after withdrawing that amount in accordance with the conditions of the loan of 1879. In continuation of the same subject on the 18th, the prime minister, Counselor Saraiva, reiterated his predecessor's argument in defense of the coffee speculation and stated that he should not hesitate to do the same were he to see any profit in it for the government. The bill of last session authorizing the city government of Rio de Janeiro to borrow 4,000,000 for the consolidation of its street paying debt was finally passed and came up for comparison with the record on the 17th. The bill authorizes a loan of 1,700,000 instead of the 4,000,000 first asked. The war department budget passed 3rd reading on the 17th, increasing the total appropriation from 13,613,145,694 to 13,627,378,894. —In the Chamber there has been very little business transacted, the record being principally made up of "no sessions." The chief subject of discussion since the suppression of the emancipation movement has been that of protection to native industries. The movement for more protection, however, seems to have received a temporary check by the outspoken opposition of the prime minister and Deputy Maranhão Campos, the liberal leader of the house. The bill for the secularization of cemeteries introduced last session by Deputy Sclachla Maranhão finally passed on the 20th in the form of a substitute offered by the author of the original bill. The minister of marine presented an extraordinary credit of 5,000,000 for the purpose of increasing the Brazilian fleet, the money to be expended during 1880-81 and 1881-82, and the other asking for 354,575,893 to meet certain deficits in the department. The bill regarding the concession of industrial privileges entered on 3rd reading on the 20th. On the 21st the committee on commerce rendered an adverse report on the proposition of the Brazilian navigation company to perform the mail service between Brazil and the United States now performed by the American company. The main objections are that the contract with the American company has not been rescinded, and that the proposition is not based on the same conditions of the contract now in operation.

those, 3,600 bags are reported consigned by "a dealer," perhaps the government. In this country the delivery in May and June was only 255,000 bags. What became of this coffee of Dom Pedro's? Over 600,000 bags are still on hand; and it is impossible, even with the artificial advance of late, to realize on any quantity; for the dealers know that, during this month, the sales of imperial coffee will have to be made to meet the drafts due in London. We have yet a visible supply of 475,000 bags; the stock in Rio and Santos is 400,000 bags; or nearly the consumption of four months. The receipts have been small for the last six months, averaging only 5,000 bags per day; but the new crop will be large, and unless prices and exchange decline at Rio to a parity with ours the imperial speculation will have to continue, to the great benefit of their agents and brokers in this country, while the regular importers and brokers will have to look on.

MERCHANT.

DEED. BRIEFLEY.—At Mossley Hall near Congleton, Cheshire, England, July 13th, 1880, Mary the beloved wife of the Revd. James Brierley, M.A., J. P.

LOCAL NOTES

—An imperial decree of the 15th inst. extends the present legislative session to October 3rd. —The American packet City of Rio de Janeiro left Para for this port on the 18th. —Decree 7,819, of the 13th inst., approves a postal contract between the government and the Bahiana steamship company. —The budget as it passed the Chamber exempts from import duties all Brazilian journals and reviews published in foreign countries. —Deputy Felício dos Santos opposed the bill for the secularization of cemeteries in the name of religious liberty. Some would call that a misnomer. —The Senate budget committee has reported favorably on the street-cleaning contract of 1876, but recommends the reduction of its term to eight years. —The government has decided to send Col. W. Milnor Roberts to examine the port of Pernambuco. Col. Roberts will leave for the north about the last of the month.

THE RIO NEWS.

This interesting organ of the Rio press has constituted itself a resolute champion of the cause of emancipation, rendering the most decided and efficient support to the glorious initiative of our illustrious friend, Deputy Joaquim Nabuco, precursor of the great event that in a term much shorter than is generally supposed will make for Brazil her true hegira. The roar of the interests fed by the immoral traffic in human flesh does not frighten this independent sheet which sees every day an increase in the number of its readers and earnest panegyrists. The whole English colony of Rio de Janeiro prize THE RIO NEWS, and there are already many Brazilians who seek it for its very exact appreciations and judicious commentaries on all questions relating to the prosperity of Brazil.

The slave owners, holding the wealth of the country, form a league of important interests that offers a natural resistance to the liberty of the press. It is not strange that our leading journals, requiring large receipts for their costly maintenance, are timid and cautious in the propaganda with which they all sympathize. What they have done and are doing is much, so much that they have already been denounced in parliament as abolitionists, and we are the first to applaud their attitude because for the good of our cause it is necessary that they should prosper so that when the decisive hour comes they may courageously participate in the common sacrifice. We adopt frankly the fine expression used in the parliament by one of the initiators of the abolition party declaring our allies to be those who desire all, those who desire much, and those who desire little. Our irreconcilable enemies are those who desire nothing; those who wish to remain unmoved before the law of September 28th which realized a considerable progress but no longer corresponds to the impulse of the abolition issue.

The Rio News placed itself nobly in the vanguard. It is of those who wish all; that is, unconditional liberty for this million and a half of human beings of whom at least one-half is the product of illicit traffic subsequent to the express law of 1831. We wish THE RIO NEWS success and congratulate ourselves in seeing that it fights, with great valor and excellent judgment, to save Brazil from the disgrace of possessing slaves in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

The existence of this important organ of the press is a splendid proof that it is not alone by the support of the slave-holders that a journal can live. The slave-holders accumulate fortune; we accumulate titles of the gratitude and the blessings of humanity.

THE SACRILEGIOUS COMMISSION

The sanitary commission in the 2nd district of Sacramento parish has begun work for the coming season by inspecting the streets, dwelling places, markets, etc., in their district. This timely step can not be commended too highly; and it is to be hoped that the other district commissions will lose no time in following this example. And while the commissions are engaged upon this work, we would urge upon them, as we have done again and again, the suppression of certain street nuisances which are both offensive to public morals and to public health, and the removal of the many cow stables now kept in the most densely populated parts of the city. Both of these evils are sources of great danger to public health and should be suppressed with a rigorous hand. Of the first mentioned public decency requires its suppression even were there no sanitary evils involved, and it is to be believed that no difficulty will be found in carrying it into effect now that the official conscience has been aroused by the impropriety of a few bathers who have been long accustomed to dress on the beach in the early morning.

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

The several colonies in the province of Paraná contain a total population of 12,184, chiefly Italians.

—The president of the province of Amazonas has convoked an extraordinary session of the provincial assembly for the 1st of October.

—The composer, Carlos Gomes, received a royal reception at S. Paulo on the 12th inst. There were fêlicitations, processions, music and fireworks without end.

—The August receipts of the Pernambuco custom house were 749,221\$233, of the provincial consulado 44,488\$959 and of the internal revenue office 171,558\$415.

—According to the Jornal de Noticias of Bahia a fight took place among some laborers on the Central Bahia railway on the night of the 6th inst., resulting in 3 killed and 18 wounded.

—The provincial assembly of Rio de Janeiro has passed a bill authorizing lotteries to the amount of 600,000\$ for the raising of streets in Niteroy.

—The provincial government of Bahia borrowed 300,000\$ from the Banco da Bahia on the 23rd of July last, to be paid on the 31st of December next with interest at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

—A severe hail storm visited Sorocaba, S. Paulo, on the evening of the 12th inst. The hail stones are reported to have been larger than pigeons' eggs.

—A new semi-monthly publication, entitled Ilustração Paulista, will shortly appear in São Paulo under the editorial direction of Dr. Inglez de Souza.

—A white man named José Saturnino was set at liberty at Pelotas, Rio Grande, on the 1st inst., after six months' imprisonment in jail as a slave.

—Act 2,061, of the recent provincial assembly of Bahia, grants six lottery drawings of 100,000\$ each to the Misericórdia hospital of that city for the establishment of a home and school for orphan children between the ages of six and twelve years.

—An attempt was made to kill Dr. Lopes Rodrigues, the juiz de direito at Jahu, S. Paulo, on the night of the 11th inst. A gun shot was fired through the window of his residence but fortunately did no greater harm than filling a book case with slugs.

—The Paralyha correspondent of the Jornal reports the continuance of rains in that province. The winter has been exceedingly favorable and the crops are promising well.

—Complaints are made at Maranhão, province of Amazonas, of the destruction of goods from boxes somewhere between Pará and that city.

—A dispute about the small sum of 6\$ resulted in the murder of Joaquim Pereira dos Santos at Pelotas, Rio Grande, on the morning of the 29th ult.

—The Corvica Alvarado, of Pelotas, Rio Grande, of the 1st inst., calls attention to the long and unjust imprisonment of two slaves whose only offense seems to be that they belong to the unsettled estate of one Moraes.

—The slave population of São Paulo matriculated up to the 31st of December, 1878, was 204,672, of which 116,931 were males and 87,691 females.

—According to the Jornal de Commercio, of Porto Alegre, of the 31st ult., a horrible case of parricide had occurred at S. Sebastião a few days before. A boy of 14 or 15 years stole 150\$ from his father which he lost at gambling.

—The fortress of Macapá, Pará, is undergoing repairs.

—The number of cattle killed for consumption in the Pará slaughter house in August was 2,018 head.

—The August receipts of the Ceará custom house were 129,137\$792, and of the provincial treasury 25,455\$951.

—The work of removing obstructions at the entrance to Cape Frio harbor was completed on the 18th inst.

—The August receipts of the Maranhão custom house were 239,918\$329, and of the provincial treasury 47,755\$466.

—The August receipts of the Pará custom house were 421,475\$397 of which 283,013\$765 were from imports and 130,715\$768 from exports.

—Up to the 5th inst. the Maranhão provincial assembly had not opened because of an insufficient number of deputies to form a quorum.

—A resident of Venda Grande, Piahy, named Izidoro Borges Leal, was assassinated in his own house, while asleep, on the night of the 22nd ult.

—The August receipts of the Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, custom house were 13,409\$719, as against 1,042\$788 for the same month of last year.

—A jury at Cameté, Pará, has acquitted Estevão Wanzeller, the murderer of a man named Polycarpo. There was no doubt about the murder, but Wanzeller had political influence.

—A bag containing 40 revolvers was captured by the customs officials at Santos on the night of the 15th inst. They had just been landed from the German steamer Argentinia and were in the possession of a passenger.

—According to late advices the Rio Negro has fallen considerably. The people living along its banks are suffering much annoyance and injury from Indian incursions.

—Jahú, S. Paulo, is a lively place. Two men were drinking together in the parish of Sape (Jahú) on the evening of the 1st inst. when one of them, named Aureliano, fired upon the other, Bernardino, and inflicted a wound from which he died on the 3rd.

—Two slaves were freed by Mr. William Van Vleck Lidgerwood at Campinas, São Paulo, in honor of the arrival of Carlos Gomes at that city.

—Whether the world at large recognizes in the Brazilian composer a musical genius of the highest type, or not, is a matter of secondary consideration before this one philanthropic act—the liberation of two more slaves. And we are glad to say that they were not old and crippled slaves either.

—The Jornal do Recife of the 13th inst., relates the following occurrence, which took place at Agua Preta, Pernambuco, on the 19th ult. The owner of a sugar estate, named Joaquim José de Azevedo, was contesting the right to some property on which was a settlement known as Caissara.

—The opera at Pará has developed a new feature which we would recommend to the consideration of directors. During the first act of Lucrecia Borgia on the 2nd inst., the prima dona, Savio, was warmly applauded but the second tenor, Gigli, was received with marked disrespect by an over-critical part of the audience.

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SHOULD Thomas Brierley, who was in Buenos Ayres for a time when the yellow fever was raging in A. J. 1879, be the announcement of his mother's death in this day's paper, he is earnestly requested to write home immediately, or to return.

AMERICAN BANK NOTES. OFFICE: 147, BROADWAY, NEW YORK. ENGRAVES AND PRINTS BANK NOTES, BONDS FOR GOVERNMENTS AND CORPORATIONS, BILLS OF EXCHANGE, CERTIFICATES OF STOCK, POSTAGE AND REVENUE STAMPS, POLICIES OF INSURANCE, AND ALL KINDS OF SECURITIES.

NEW YORK, February 6, 1879. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees held this day, the clerical consolidation with the National and Continental Bank Company was adopted.

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