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ELECTORAL REFORM.

The essential features of the electoral reform bill proposed by Counselor Saraiva and his ministerial associates last May, and which were afterwards passed with some slight modifications by the Chamber of Deputies, were: 1, election by direct vote instead of through electoral colleges as at present; 2, the extension of full political rights to non-catholics and naturalized citizens; 3, a prohibition upon certain officials against becoming candidates within the territory over which they have authority; 4, establishing boards of registry from the highest tax-payers in each district; 5, the election of deputies separately and by districts instead of collectively and by provinces as now.

The reforms sought through these changes in the electoral system were in many respects radical, but they were no more so than the necessities of the case required. It had long been patent to every thoughtful observer that Brazilian elections were farcical in the highest degree. They were never the expression of the popular will, the result of a popular opinion. Ministries were made and unmade at the sole will of the Emperor and when these changes brought about a change in the dominant party, the elections have never been known to result adversely to the party actually in power. It was not surprising, therefore, that a liberal minority of sixteen in the Chamber of Deputies under the conservative ministry of the Duque de Caxias in 1877 became an absolute majority under the liberal ministry of Counselor Sinimbuá in 1878; and were there to be a change in the dominant party to-morrow the complete reversal of this majority in the ensuing election would be not only not surprising but it might be predicted with absolute certainty. The election was therefore only a pliant instrument in the hands of the government and meant no more than the famous *plebiscite* of Napoleon III.

The peculiar character of elections enabled the government to easily control them and to secure the return of its chosen candidates. In a country whose social institutions make so wide a gap between the high and the low, where communication is difficult, where education is limited and almost wholly confined to the ruling class, and where the absence of a thoroughly independent and enterprising press, outside the few large cities of to-day, keeps back that wider knowledge of the world and the consequent discussion of men and principles—in a country where all these things are found such a thing as a sound, independent public opinion is an utter impossibility. It follows, therefore, that a primary election, especially under the complicated routine of the present system, is nothing more than a formality, a sham. And in the secondary elections, where electoral colleges meet and elect, the result is even more absurd and fruitless for the simple reason that the machine manipulation of the primary elections has secured the electors desired, and their subsequent management by a government with places and funds at its disposal is a very slight task. An election therefore is nothing more than a fictitious popular expression of the ministerial will.

It is evident that Counselor Saraiva entered upon the task of forming the present ministry with a sincere determination to put a stop to these abuses, and to secure such other reforms as would render Brazilian elections something more than cut and dried endorsements of machine intrigues. With this purpose in view the useless formality of an electoral college was set off and the elections were made direct. That crying injustice in Brazilian politics—the imposition of political disabilities upon non-catholics and naturalized citizens—was removed. A prohibition was placed upon the undue and not infrequent influence brought to bear upon elections by influential public officials in order to secure their own return to the legislature, very often to a life position in the Senate itself. The

management of local elections was taken out of the hands of the machine men and placed in the hands of the highest taxpayers of the district. And finally, the members of the popular branch of the legislature were to be chosen by districts, in order that the principle of representation might be more nearly attained, and that local as well as provincial interests might be represented. No one could believe that these reforms would at once secure pure and independent elections, but as they were necessary steps in that direction they were received with general approval.

After some unimportant modifications and the suppression of the clause creating boards of registry from the highest tax-payers, the bill was speedily passed by the Chamber of Deputies and sent up to the Senate, where it remained in committee until the 27th ult. In the final report of that committee, the electoral reform project, of which so much had been hoped, has come forth shorn of nearly every feature upon which a real reform is based. Sufficiently complicated at first it is now even more so, and to such an extent that every possible benefit from a direct vote will be lost. The committee has stricken out everything pertaining to the removal of political disabilities and the abolition of the oath, thus defeating the most essential and vital element of reform in the whole project. What with the property limitation on voters, and the restrictions on account of religion and nationality, there remains even less freedom under the proposed law than under the laws now in vigor. The election of deputies by districts is retained but under a discarded law of 1855 and in conformity with legislation hereafter to be provided—all of which means that the concession will be so limited and restricted as to be shorn of every possible benefit.

Under existing circumstances, we can not see any tangible benefit in the project of electoral reform now under consideration in an extraordinary session of the legislature. What Brazil most needs is the new blood and enterprise which foreign immigration alone can bring—that same vigor and life which is being poured so lavishly into the United States every day of the year. It has been there demonstrated through long years of experience that this foreign element soon adapts itself to the needs and conditions of the country, and that, with one possible exception, it is a source of real strength. If, therefore, such benefits arise from the concession of full political rights to all, irrespective of creed or nationality, in the United States, it is not highly probable that the same policy will produce similar results in Brazil? The immigrant who works best and adds most to the wealth and prosperity of a country, is the one who can most fully identify himself with its institutions. Shut him out from a full enjoyment of its advantages because of his religion or his alien birth and you destroy the best incentive to exertion which he can possess.

The restrictive policy of Brazil in this matter has already done her incalculable harm, and now that the world is growing out of this narrow spirit of intolerance and restriction it promises to do a much greater measure of harm in the future. If it be true, as the Senate committee asserts, that these reforms can only be accomplished by constitutional amendments, then let the amendments be brought forward at once and let the organic law of the empire be forever freed from this narrow and unworthy jealousy. Whatever may be her natural advantages, Brazil can never prosper as long as she deprives any part of her people, either native or adopted, of the full enjoyment of their personal and political rights, and of the fullest condition of equality.

In a letter to the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 8th inst. Senator Candido Mendes de Almeida says that he began life in 1839, the date of his graduation, with three slaves—one inherited and the other two gifts. To these slaves he gave their freedom, and now is able to say: "I am more than thirty years I have have not possessed slaves, nor have I purchased any." In a country where slave-holding is legalized, and is so general, these are words worthy of the highest praise.

TEN YEARS' PROGRESS.

Nations should not only take a decennial census of population, but also draw up a balance-sheet every ten years of what progress they may have made in industry, wealth, commerce, instruction, and morality. We have only to compare the returns of the Board of Trade for 1879-80 with those of ten years ago to see the advancement of the United Kingdom as follows:—Population, 11 per cent.; revenue, 8 per cent.; public wealth, 30 per cent.; commerce, 13 per cent.; shipping, 16 per cent.; textile manufactures, 29 per cent.; minerals, 45 per cent.; railway traffic, 45 per cent.; post office, 45 per cent.; schools, 122 per cent.; public morality, 13 per cent.; welfare of poor, 19 per cent. Population has not grown so fast as in previous decades, but the ratio of increase is still much higher than the European average. It was 13 per cent. in England and 10 in Scotland, while Ireland showed a decline of 1 per cent., owing to emigration. The total number of British emigrants was 1,654,000, from which, deducting those who returned, the balance or net loss would be \$75,000, and if these were added to the actual population the increase would reach 14 per cent. Revenue or taxation is lighter now than it was ten years ago, the average for last year being 48s. per inhabitant. In the same interval the National Debt has been reduced by 24 millions sterling. Public wealth is pretty accurately measured by the income-tax valuation, which is now £134,000,000 higher than in 1869, an increase of £4 per inhabitant; even in Ireland the ratio is higher by £2 per head. It seems that the average income varies in the three kingdoms as follows:—£19 in England, £15 in Scotland, £7 in Ireland, and £17 for the whole United Kingdom. The accumulation of wealth among the working classes, as represented by deposits in savings banks, has risen from 51 to 76 millions sterling, being almost 50 per cent. Compared with population, the savings deposited since 1869 have been 18s. per inhabitant in England, the same in Scotland, and 4s. in Ireland. It is, furthermore, worthy of observation that the deposits in the Bank of England reached 39½ millions sterling in 1879 against 22 millions in 1869, the increase being relatively almost double as great as in the savings banks.

Commerce has likewise grown faster than population, showing last year a ratio of £17 18s. 3d. per inhabitant against £17 4s. 6d. in 1869. Many people erroneously suppose that it is only our imports that increase, while our exports decline. Suffice it to say that the exports of 1879 were 12 millions sterling over those of 1869, being an increase of 5 per cent.—Our merchant shipping (not including colonial) has risen 860,000 tons, but the effective carrying power is almost doubled, owing to the enormous development of steam traffic. In 1869 steamers were 17 per cent. of our shipping, the present ratio being 33 per cent., and, if we count them as four times the power of sailing vessels, we find our carrying power is now 14 million tons, as against 8½ million tons ten years ago. If we include colonial, the total British tonnage would be equivalent to 19½ million tons, the total for all nations being a little over 40 millions. Manufactures, minerals, and railway returns show at a glance the progress of internal industry. Our mills in 1879 consumed 615 million pounds of cotton and wool, against 1,248 millions in 1869, an increase of 29 per cent.; while our mining industry rose 45 per cent.; the value of coal, iron, &c., extracted last year amounting to 64 millions, against 44 millions in 1869. By a remarkable coincidence, our railway traffic has grown in the same ratio as minerals, the gross earnings having risen from £41,100,000 to £59,400,000. Another coincidence is the post office increase, also 45 per cent.—viz., 847 million letters in 1869, and 1,239 millions last year.—*The Times*, Sept. 3, 1880.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The September receipts of the Carangola railway were 55,216\$300.
 —It is reported that a revision of the tariff of the Dom Pedro II railway will soon take place.
 —The August receipts of the Baturité railway were 19,009\$188 and the expenditures 14,963\$720.
 —The September receipts of the Pirapetinga railway were 15,783\$430. The number of passengers carried was 1,812.
 —An extension of the Pirapetinga railway is projected from Pirapetinga to Santo Antonio de Padua. The distance is 38 kilometers.
 —Three engineers have been dismissed from the Paulo Afonso railway because they were not in accord with the new chief engineer, Dr. Moraes.
 —The British brig *Jamie* arrived at Pernambuco on the 5th inst. from Liverpool with 6,731 sleepers and 34 packages of iron material for the Limecoir railway.
 —The British bark *Rialto* arrived at Natal, Rio Grande do Norte, on the 17th inst. from Pernambuco, United States, with 11,443 pine sleepers, and 934 packages of iron and office material for the "Natal a Nova Cruz" railway.
 —The September receipts of the Leopoldina railway were 166,498\$675, as against 84,783\$000 for the same month of 1879. The coffee traffic amounted to 3,479.8 tons. The number of passengers carried was 10,172, of which 5,820 were 1st class and 4,352 were 2nd class.

—The August receipts of the Feira de Sant'Anna branch of the Imperial Central Bahia railway were 8,963\$970 and the expenditures 8,892\$090. The number of passengers carried was 2,058, of which 266 were 1st class and 1,796 were 2nd class. The freight traffic amounted to 575.6 tons.

—Decree 7,838 of the 4th inst. concedes a 50 years privilege to Benedito Antonio da Silva, Adolpho Augusto Pinto and Luiz Augusto Pinto for the construction and use of a railway from S. João do Rio Claro, the terminus of the Paulista line, to S. Carlos do Pinhal, province of S. Paulo.

—Decree 7,803 of August 26, authorizes the "Compagnie Générale de Chemin de Fer Brésiliens" to transact business in the empire of Brazil. The life of the company is fixed at ninety-nine years. It is now engaged in constructing the Paraná railway from Paranáguá to Curitiba.

—A special freight train on the Leopoldina railway, carrying coffee from Cataguas to Porto Novo da Cunha, ran off the track near Recreio on the 30th ult. The accident was caused by a broken rail. Three cars were thrown off and broken up, the coffee being completely ruined by dirt and rain. One brakeman was seriously injured and another had a leg broken. The line is said to be in a very bad state.

PROVINCIAL DEBT OF GOYAZ.

According to the late report of the president of Goyaz the public debt of that province on the 31st of December, 1879, amounted to 79,768\$907, as follows:

Provincial apolices.....	51,600\$000
Floating debt loans, 6 per cent.....	10,991\$165
do do 8 per cent.....	9,000\$000
Unpaid salaries and subventions of previous years.....	7,282\$143
do of current year.....	835\$599
	79,768\$907

The sums owing to the provincial treasury at the same date amounted to a total of 51,521\$287, of which only 38,259\$666 is classified as "collectable." The sum of 10,664\$113 is classed as "insoluble." A comparison of the present debt with the debt statements of the two preceding years shows that it has been considerably diminished. At the close of the fiscal year 1877-78 the total indebtedness of the province was 117,281\$153. In the following half year that amount was largely diminished, the total on the 31st of December following being 89,808\$044—a reduction of 27,473\$109. The total reduction in the debt of the province during the calendar year 1879 was 10,999\$137.

—Decree 7,830, of the 21st ult., grants an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. on 400,000\$ for the construction of a central sugar factory for the Sant'Anna fazenda, Vassouras, province of Rio de Janeiro.

—The total number of immigrants, including all 3rd-class passengers, entering this port during the month of July was 2,031, of which 131 were subsidized. The number of departures was 501, of which 216 went to Paraná, 165 to Santa Catharina, 86 to Rio Grande do Sul and 34 to S. Paulo.

—Decree 7,805, of August 26, grants permission to Domingos Maria Gonçalves to incorporate a company under the title "Companhia Zootécnica Agrícola do Brazil" for the purpose of founding agricultural establishments for poor boys. The capital is fixed at 1,500,000\$, and the scheme must be carried into effect within three years.

—Colonel Sergio Volanese, envoy extraordinary on a special mission from Rumania to Brazil, had audience of the Emperor on the 2nd inst. His mission is to notify Brazil of the independence of Rumania, and to present the Emperor with the grand cross of the Order of the Star of Rumania.

—We are under obligations to the secretary of the New York Chamber of Commerce, George Wilson, Esq., for the 22nd annual report of that corporation. The report is a carefully-prepared volume of some 500 pages, and contains an elaborate résumé of the commerce of New York for the fiscal year 1879-80, together with valuable tables of the general commerce of the United States, as compiled by the Bureau of Statistics.

—Deputy Faes Leme, of the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly, believes in protecting native industry, and as one of the means he proposes a lottery of 5,000,000\$, divided into 500,000 tickets, the product of which shall be applied to the founding of agricultural stations in various municipalities. It is certainly a beautiful scheme—so beautiful, in fact, that it ought to be extended just a little further. We propose that lotteries be substituted for labor itself, and that everybody shall live on the proceeds. In such case, every man should be "protected" in his right to draw at least one large prize per annum, or often if he can make good his claim to it. There's nothing like living with your hand in another man's pocket, especially if that pocket contains "portable" property.

The manufacture of pins in English factories amounts to 50,000,000 a day, of which 37,000,000 are made in Birmingham. The weight of wire consumed is about 1,275½ tons per annum, valued at about £146,500.

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.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs, a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, a table of freights and charters, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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All subscriptions must run with the calendar year. Back numbers supplied at this office from April 1st, 1879. Subscriptions and advertisements received at the EDITORIAL ROOMS—8 Rua São Pedro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 15TH, 1880.

WE SEE by our River Plate exchanges that the recent trip of Col. W. P. Tisdell to Buenos Ayres in connection with the extension of the United States and Brazil steamship line to the River Plate, resulted in a successful negotiation with the Argentine government and a special message from the president of the republic to the legislature asking for a subsidy. In view of the circumstance that there had long been a desire on the part of our Platine neighbors for a direct steamship communication with the United States the manager of the Roach line found very little difficulty in arranging terms, and there will probably be no difficulty whatever in securing the necessary appropriations. At the outset the company asked a monthly subsidy of 10,000 hard dollars and a contract for ten years, but as these terms were deemed too high by the Argentine government they were afterwards reduced to an annual subsidy of 100,000 hard dollars and a contract for seven years. The preliminaries being arranged, President Avellaneda addressed a message to Congress on the 27th ult. setting forth the advantages of the proposed service and the terms offered by the company. In strong contrast with the delays and intrigues connected with such matters here, the Argentine Congress will unquestionably give prompt attention to the proposition, and will decide it either one way or the other without any petty restrictions and onerous conditions. The Herald believes that the project will be approved at once and that the service will be begun at an early date. It is very probable that one of the conditions imposed will be a direct service during the hot season in order to avoid all risk of yellow fever infection from Brazilian ports. The extension of this service to the River Plate will be a decided advantage to the commercial relations between the Platine republics and the United States and will also do much toward strengthening the position of the company in its effort to build up a regular American transportation service along this coast. It may not be that such a service will be fully successful at the outset, but in view of the rapidly-increasing business between the countries in question, and the possible future expansion of that business, nothing can be more certain than that the enterprise, if well conducted, will be highly successful at no distant day. It is to be hoped that the Brazilian legislature will lose no further time in settling its own affairs with the company, and being as prompt and straightforward as the Argentine Republic promises to be.

THE abstract of the savings bank report for the month of September and for the nine months ending September 30, which we gave in our last issue, illustrates a state of affairs which should not be overlooked. The savings bank, to the ablest statesmen, is an unfailing indicator of economic health, and it is therefore always watched with the most anxious care. An institution which represents the little savings of the poorer classes must necessarily be the first to show their gains or losses. As in times of prosperity the deposits increase and the aggregate goes up steadily, so in times of depression there is a falling off or withdrawal of deposits and a steady diminution in the aggregate. When a man makes use of a savings bank it is generally with a purpose of accumulating a capital either for future investment or for his support at some time when he can no longer work; and for this reason he will endure both loss and privation before he will withdraw his deposits. So true is this characteristic among all peoples that a withdrawal of deposits has become an indication not simply of a temporary panic,

but of a deep-seated distress. Under such conditions the decrease of deposits in the Caixa Economica of this city to the amount of 9,739,598 in September, and of 1,397,254,820 during the nine months ending September 30, is an indication that there is something radically wrong. This steady decrease in deposits does not mean that there is a loss of faith in the institution, as there are in no case a panic; it simply means that the people are no longer able to meet their every day expenses, and are at last driven to the consumption of their savings. How much of this is due to the evil effects of slavery and how much to the results of over-taxation it may not be possible to determine, but that both of these causes are at work in this is certain. Slavery in its demoralizing influence on free labor invariably tends to lessen its profits. It places the free laborer at such a disadvantage that even the most patient industry is scarcely able to compete with even the slightest prospects of success. Regarding the other cause—over-taxation—there can be no doubt but that it has at last reached a point where the poorer classes are actually unable to meet it. The pernicious system of indirect taxation, usually levied through customs duties, is a constant drain upon every man's purse, and it is very apt to be both unequal and unjust. The tax of so much per cent on a man's bread is unjust to the poor man because he pays more according to his ability than his richer neighbor; and so too on his clothing, and his tools, and every thing that may be a necessity to him. It has been the practice here to levy high rates on the poor man's necessities simply because they furnish a larger and steadier income than the luxuries of the rich man, and this expedient has now been carried so far as to cause positive distress. In the last revision of the tariff, the poor man's shirts, cottons, wool hats, food, etc., were all largely increased, while the tariff on the rich man's wines were actually decreased almost fifty per cent. Even the most cursory glance at that monstrous piece of iniquity can not fail to demonstrate this gross violation of every principle of political economy and common justice. It is now clear that the limits of taxation on the poor man's necessities has long since been passed, and that the right path must hereafter lead backward. No impoverished class can be a benefit to any country, and Brazil least of all can not afford to sustain such a class.

THE second distribution of the emancipation fund, now taking place, assigns the sum of 94,180,822 to Pará as the quota for that province. The slave population upon which this quota is based is placed by the minister of agriculture at 28,629. According to the official report of the slave population of Pará on the 31st of December, 1878, the total number then held in the province was 27,790, as follows:

Table showing slave population statistics for Pará: Matriculated Sep. 30, 1873, under the law of 1871 (31,747); Matriculated by judicial decision (6); Entered from other provinces (2,413); Total (34,226); Removed from the province (2,971); Died (2,088); Freed by voluntary act (1,244); Freed by legal decision (956); Freed by emancipation fund (76); Total (6,435); Slave population, Dec. 31, 1878 (27,791).

From these figures it will be seen that the decrease in the slave population of Pará between September 30, 1873, and December 31, 1878—five years and three months—was 3,956, or at the rate of 753 1/2 per annum. Making no allowance for the natural increase in this rate which should follow with the lapse of time, there should be a further decrease of 1,130 between January 1, 1879, and June 30, 1880, and the actual slave population at the later date should have been not over 26,655. Taking into consideration the surprising statement in the report for 1878 that the total number of deaths since 1873 was only 2,088, or at the average annual rate of 12.5 per thousand, we may feel sure that this decrease is much below the actual figures. The death rate among the slaves in this city in 1877 was 35.5 per thousand, and everyone who knows the harsh treatment of the plantation slave as compared with those of this city will not easily believe that there is any such wide discrepancy in favor of the former. Leaving this manifest error

out of account, however, we have an apparent increase in the number of slaves of 1,974. It has been popularly supposed that the northern provinces are trying to get rid of their slaves by sending them south, and this supposition is based upon large and regular shipments of slaves from every northern port, including Pará. Where, therefore, comes this increase of two thousand slaves? To say that there has been a decrease of 3,118 since the matriculation of 1873 will not answer the inquiry, for it is nearly two thousand short of what it should be—and that, too, under the most favorable estimates. To ascribe the discrepancy to faulty statistics is also insufficient, for the law makes no provisions for errors. On the contrary, it expressly provides that all slaves not registered on the 30th of September, 1873, are thereafter free. Hence, then, comes this increase? We have before called attention to the startling results of gradual emancipation, and we have shown by official figures that there is an apparent illegal increase in the slave population of the whole empire of over one hundred and twenty thousand—and to this day that statement stands undisputed. We have called attention to the illegal reduction of free persons to slavery, and the sale of ingenuos—but as yet no one has been punished for it. We have also called attention—over one year ago—to the enslavement of Indian children on the Amazon, and that fact has since been repeated and confirmed in the Jornal do Comercio—but to this day no step has been publicly taken to check that accused traffic. How much of this illegal increase in the slave population of Pará is due to the traffic in Indian children, can not be accurately determined, but that it forms no small part of it there can not be the slightest doubt.

THERE can be no question whatever as to the need and desire of Brazil for foreign capital—it is a need which every new country feels in some degree, and it is a desire which is fully warranted as a means of developing natural resources and initiating national enterprises. With such aims in view the investment of foreign capital within the country is a national blessing; it is a source of national wealth and prosperity as well as a source of profit to the investor. It follows, therefore, that a true national policy, as well as common honesty, requires that the integrity of contracts and the security of investments shall be most strictly observed and guarded. Strong as are the ethical reasons for this course—and such reasons in themselves should always decide every disputed point—they are supported in every respect by the material interests of the country. The facility of obtaining capital and low rates of interest are always dependent upon the security and good character of investments. Onerous conditions, quibbles, and breaches of contract are therefore impolitic in the highest degree, as they can only lead to the exaction of such conditions and terms on the part of investors as are made necessary by the extra risks incurred. With these simple principles to determine all conflicting interests, it is still possible for the minister of agriculture to issue a dispatch of the following tenor, which appeared in the Diario Official of the 12th inst. in reply to a petition from the contractor now engaged in constructing a system of rain-water drainage in this city:

Joseph Hancock, contractor of the rain-water drainage works of this city, asking indemnification for the time which his works were stopped by a project of municipal by-law, whose approval is now under consideration. As soon as the project of by-law, to which the petitioner refers, has been approved by the competent powers, the contractor will be subject to it. For this reason he can receive no indemnification, because on the one hand the by-law will be a law of the empire, and upon the other the petitioner's contract was dependent, has already presented it. In addition to this, by art. vii of the contract mentioned, the petitioner is under express obligations to comply with the dispositions and regulations of the municipal council. In view of this the claim is rejected.

Without entering into a discussion of this special case, which concerns us at this time only as an illustration, we are definitely informed in this official dispatch that contracts are subject to future legislative acts and that no claim for damages arising from such legislation will be admitted. The principle being established, it follows that a contractor, who has invested his capital in a public work, will be compelled by the highest power of state to submit to any and every condition which an irresponsible and capricious body of men may see fit to impose, whether or not such condition may involve a radical change in the terms of the contract and a consequent loss. Under this ruling it follows that a contractor is subject to all future legislative acts, regulating, modifying, or even changing his contract; logically, the contract could be wholly suspended, should the general or municipal legislatures so decide, and there would remain to him no remedy whatever. On such grounds, a contractor is presumed to have risked his capital and signed his agreement with closed eyes, to have placed

his money wholly at the disposal of outside parties regardless of consequences. We do not believe, however, that this extraordinary and arbitrary ruling of the minister of agriculture will be implicitly accepted by foreign capitalists, and that they will choose to enter into any further contracts with this government on any such bases. The ruling is so clearly unjust and arbitrary that, if persisted in, there remains not the slightest security for investments in enterprises of a public character. If there is no law in Brazil guaranteeing the integrity of contracts, and if such rulings are to be enforced against contractors, then it is best that capitalists should be fully informed of that fact. The minister of agriculture should remember that there are personal and property rights which even a government is bound to respect.

THE regular sessions of the General Assembly were brought to a close on the 9th inst., and in conformity with an imperial decree of the 8th, the chambers were at once convened in extraordinary session for the consideration of the ministerial project of electoral reform. The Senate committee reported that project back on the 27th ult. with many essential changes and modifications, and it is to be presumed that its consideration will now be speedily carried through. The speech from the throne on the 9th was brief and was confined to a general statement that Brazil still enjoyed friendly relations with all nations, that abundant rains in the north had brought the season to a final termination, that it is a matter for congratulation that the chambers had balanced the estimated receipts and expenditures, and that the imperious necessity of effecting a reform in elections had led to this extra session.

THE closing days of the regular session in the Senate were occupied with the revenue estimates which were finally passed on the 7th inst. with amendments, and the bill was then returned to the Chamber for concurrence. The Senate wisely rejected the Barão de Cotegipe's proposition to authorize the use of the emancipation fund with the general receipts. A bitter discussion occurred between Senator Silveira Martins and the Barão de Cotegipe on the 4th in regard to Rio Grande affairs, and on the 5th Senator Mendes de Almeida made a forcible anti-slavery speech. The senators-elect from Parahyba and Pernambuco, Drs. João Florentino Meira de Vasconcellos and Luiz Felipe de Souza Leão, were finally admitted into Senate on the 13th, and on the 12th a committee report in favor of the admission of Dr. Florentino Carlos de Azevedo e Silva as senator from Rio Grande do Sul was received.

THE only session of the Chamber of Deputies since our last report was held on the 13th inst. The chief event of the session was a speech in the discussion on the Senate amendments to the revenue estimates by Deputy Sallimania Marinho, in which he showed that ex-minister Alfonso Celso's purchase of coffee was illegally made, as the law requires the publication of such purchases on the succeeding day. The minister of empire asked for a supplementary order of 37,015,540 for the new garden in the Praça do Aclimação, and the minister of agriculture asked for two credits—one of 227,105,798 for the deficits, and the other for 3,802,413,001 for diverse public works. The American steamship subsidy bill came up on 3rd reading, but Deputy Joaquim Serra, of Maranhão, asked that the vote be deferred for twenty-four hours to enable him to make use of some memoranda he had prepared on the subject but had unfortunately left at his residence. The Chamber kindly deferred to his request, though he admitted that it was merely as a duty to his constituents that he wished to speak, and not because it would have the least effect.

LOCAL NOTES

—The Emperor Dom Pedro II will have reignited 50 years on the 7th of April, 1881. A grand commemorative ceremony is already talked of. —The Emperor has given 400\$ to the Empress 200\$ to the family of the late Dr. Pientzenauer who committed suicide a few weeks since. —The government has received a proposal from Messrs. Donald & Co, guano merchants of London, for the working of the guano or phosphate deposits of Fernando de Noronha. —Senators-elect Luiz Felipe de Souza Leão, of Pernambuco, and João Florentino Meira de Vasconcellos, of Parahyba, were formally recognized on the 13th inst., and took their seats in the Senate yesterday. —The total number of immigrants, including 3rd-class passengers, arriving at this port during which first 371 of the present year was 12,746, of which 371 came under contract or subsidy. The departures in the same period were 4,776, of which 2,271 went to Rio Grande do Sul, 877 to Espírito Santo, 750 to Santa Catharina, 394 to Paraná, 255 to S. Paulo, and 229 remained in the province of Rio de Janeiro. —The board of health has entered a report at the department of empire against the bad state of the Canal do Mangue. They state—and with good reason—that the canal is filled with decomposing animal and vegetable matter, which forms a focus of infection to a large and densely-populated part of the city. It is to be hoped that measures will be taken at once to remedy this grave defect in the sanitary state of the city. —A newspaper report to the effect that a non-catholic marriage between a grandmother and her grandson in Rio Grande do Sul was brought before the Senate on the 11th inst. by Senator Mendes de Almeida, and then became the subject of a minute dispatch from the minister of justice to the president of that offending province. And in the meantime the foundations of society and the empire are about to fall if that ridiculous old grandmother is not properly punished.

—The Chamber of Deputies finally succeeded in getting a quorum together on the 13th inst. —An international food exhibition was opened in London on the 13th inst. It will be closed on the 30th. —Fifty vessels in port have been visited by the Sailors' Mission during the first half of the present month. —A kidnapping in the Praça da Gloria was attacked and robbed by a gang of thieves on the morning of the 11th. No arrests. —During the quarter ending September 30, the National Library was visited by 3,142 readers who consulted 3,274 books. —The minister of foreign affairs, Counselor Pedro Luiz, has been decorated with the grand cross of the Order of the Star of Romania. —Commandador José Machado Coelho de Castro was elected president and the Visconde de Tocantins director, of the Banco do Brazil on the 4th inst. —At the requisition of the chief of police Dr. Aristides Cesar de Almeida, ex-treasurer inspector of Parahyba and of the Santos custom house, has arrested on sentence for embezzlement of been public money. —In September the number of children placed in the wheel of the foundlings' hospital was 37. The number of deaths was 12, placed out to nurse 22, remaining in the institution at the end of the month 194. —On the 9th inst. the carriage of the chief of the fire department ran over a Spaniard in Rua do Visconde do Rio Branco and injured him so that he died a few moments after. The chief and his coachman drove on, however, but were finally stopped by the people, who compelled the surrender of the latter to arrest. The recklessness with which public officials drive through the narrow streets of this city is the cause of very many accidents, and it is to be hoped that this unhappy result will now lead to a rigid suppression of the abuse. —The minister of justice has charged the chief of police with the task of preparing a law for the regulation of domestic servants. A more timely act than this can not be conceived. We know one servant who uses a quart of kerosene every morning in building a fire; another one who soaks a shin bone in a kettle of water half an hour and then pronounces it soup; another one who gives her lover a dinner in the kitchen three times a week; another one who uses his master's hair oil and tooth brush daily; another one who kicks the house dog every time a dish breaks itself—and so on through a long and soul-trying list. All such offenses should be made penal, and should be punished with the severest penalties. Before this one need, all such matters as election fights, police courts, slave punishments, etc., sink into insignificance. They can bide their time until the domestic servant is finally and fully regulated, and until the department of justice has evolved a law which shall exactly define his position in the world.

DIED.

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

COMMERCIAL

Table of exchange rates: Bank rate of exchange on London to-day (25/4 d); Present value of the Brazilian mil reis (1000) gold 27 d. 10 c. U. S.; Value of \$1.00 (84,801/2 mil reis) in Brazilian currency (paper) 82 1/4; Value of £1 sterling 108/159.

EXCHANGE.

OCTOBER 4.—Market inactive at 23 1/4 on London for bank paper, and 23 1/2 on London and 40 1/2 on Paris for mercantile paper. Six per cent 1,033 1/2; Sovereigns 108 3/4 and 108 3/4, cash. OCT. 5.—Market firm and more active, there being a better demand for mercantile on London at 23 1/2 to 23 1/4, the greater part of the business being effected at 23 1/2. Six per cent 1,035 1/2; loan of 1800, 1,400; Sovereigns 108 3/4 to 108 3/4, cash, with an increased demand. Banco do Brazil shares 27 1/2. OCT. 6.—General elevation in bank rates at 23 1/2 on London, 40 1/2 on Paris and 49 1/2 on Hamburg. The quotations for mercantile paper were 23 1/4 on London and 40 1/2 on Paris. Six per cent 1,034 1/2 and 1,035 1/2; Sovereigns 108 3/4 and 108 3/4, for the 31st. OCT. 7.—Market less active at yesterday's quotations. Sovereigns 108 3/4, cash. OCT. 8.—Market inactive at unchanged rates. Six per cent 1,032 1/2 to 1,035 1/2. OCT. 9.—Little business effected at 23 1/4 for mercantile paper on London, and 49 1/2 on Paris for bank paper on Hamburg. Six per cent 1,033 1/2; Sovereigns 108 3/4 to 108 3/4, cash. Naveo-Banco de Parahyba shares 108 1/2. OCT. 11.—Market inactive at 23 1/2 on London and 49 1/2 on Hamburg for bank paper. Light transactions in mercantile paper on Paris at 39 1/2. Six per cent 1,033 1/2 and 1,034 1/2. OCT. 12.—No changes in quotations. Sovereigns 108 3/4, cash. —The export of precious metals in September amounted to 75,464,701 in gold bars for England. —The Banco do Brazil received 24 more proposals for rural loans on the 4th inst. This raised the total number of proposals received to 124, and the total amount specified to 8,527,000\$. —A meeting of stock holders of the new land and marine insurance company (Alfonso) was held at the Banco Com. on the 11th inst. Fifty-three stock-holders were present, representing 7,755 shares. The company was declared to be fully organized, all legal formalities having been complied with, and it was decided to begin business at once. The Conde de Mattosinhos was elected president, and Sr. Joaquin Alvarez de Armaida and Francisco de Noyes, secretaries.

MOVEMENT OF THE STOCK MARKET FOR OCT. 4TH TO OCT. 11TH, INCLUSIVE.

Table with columns: Shares, Company, Price. Lists various stocks like Banco do Brazil, Banco de Minas, etc.

Our cable advices from Santos yesterday's date report the market at that place at \$400-450 per 1000 for superiors. Receipts during last week averaged 4,150 bags per day...

Total clearances of coffee from Rio during the 9 months from January 31st to September 30th

Table with columns: DESTINATION, 1880, 1879, 1878. Lists destinations like UNITED STATES, EUROPE, etc.

By Br Zha; 513 tons Perry; 50 ds sundries to Arthur Moor & Co.

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WEST INDIA Steer Pernambuco-Br lug Parthian; 245 tons; Pelissier ballast.

SAPELO-Br lug British Empire; 1,414 tons; Pierce; ballast.

OROTIRO Steer Lisbon-Port bgn Barco do Lago; 207 tons; Casanova; sundries.

BONOS AVRES-Sp bgn Carman; 200 tons; Rio; sundries.

ANTONIA-Sp lug Porto Real; 161 tons; Miranelli; sundries.

BALTIMORE-Am bk Lorenz; 48 tons; Bianchi; coffee.

GIBLART-Gr bk Nohor; 195 tons; Berg; coffee.

NEW ORLEANS-Gr bk Louis & George; 345 tons; Meyer; coffee.

LONDON-Sw bk Erntz; 673 tons; Edstrom; same as entered.

MADRID-Am bk Harlow; 95 tons; Harlow; ballast.

PERAMBICO-O-Fy bk Maria Collet; 360 tons; Langhagen; ballast.

ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNED TO. Lists arrivals from various ports.

DEPARTURES OF FOREIGN STEAMERS.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE TO, CARGO. Lists departures to various destinations.

FOREIGN SAILING VESSELS IN THE PORT OF RIO DE JANEIRO, OCTOBER 12, 1880.

Table with columns: NAME, TONS, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNEE. Lists vessels in port.

BANK STATEMENT

Proportion of cash reserve to liabilities on deposits at call and short notice of the bank of Rio de Janeiro, taken from the official balances published on 20th September, 1880.

Table with columns: BANKS, Deposits, Cash, Proportion. Lists various banks and their financials.

BANK OF BRAZIL

BALANCE SHEET SEPTEMBER 30, 1880.

ASSETS.

Table listing assets: National Treasury bills, Bills with two resident endorser, etc.

LIABILITIES.

Table listing liabilities: Capital, Reserve Fund, New reserve fund, etc.

MARKET REPORT

Rio de Janeiro, October 11th, 1880.

Coffees—Since our report on the 4th inst our market has presented the same features as during the preceding ten days, namely a constant fall in prices, each decline having stimulated the activity amongst exporters...

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PROVINCIAL NOTES.

A boy was killed at Faxina, S. Paulo, on the 24th ult. by a hailstone. The cable steamer Normand arrived at Santos on the 5th inst. from Sta. Catharina. The provincial assembly of Minas Geraes held its first session on the 28th ult. The present indebtedness of the province of Minas Geraes amounts to 1,142,350\$. Agricultural societies are being organized in various localities of Rio Grande do Sul. The August receipts of the Uruguaryana, Rio Grande, custom house were 34,764\$507. The Artista of Rio Grande says that a steam candle manufactory is soon to be established at Pelotas. The city of Bahia imposes a tax of 25¢ per annum on every mercantile house in which foreign fireworks are sold. The net proceeds of the benefit performance at Campinas on the 22nd ult. for the composer Carlos Gomes amounted to 406\$530. A conflict of interests has arisen between the two neighboring cities, Rio Grande and Pelotas, through an agitation by the latter for a custom house. The September receipts of the Bahia custom house were, national 807,188\$027, provincial 67,345\$401; internal revenue, national 47,971\$160, provincial 75,621\$833; post-office 5,529\$500. The authorities of Santo Amaro, Bahia, impose a tax of 10\$ upon every "free African" engaged in trade. The law authorizing this iniquitous tax is No 2,140 of Sept. 18, 1880, of the provincial assembly. It is significant that the address of the vice-president of Minas Geraes at the opening of the provincial assembly on the 25th ult. contains a quotation from Leroy Beaulieu. That clears all doubts—Leroy was a Minerist. The Santos customs authorities issued a notice on the 5th inst., requiring that certain specified merchandise, now in that custom house, shall be claimed within 30 days, under penalty of its being sent to auction at the expiration of that time. The Gazeta do Norte, of Pindamonhangaba, São Paulo, of the 31st inst., says that the planters of that locality are about to organize a club, in the interests of free labor. Their aim will be to substitute the slave by the free laborer. The customs and revenue receipts at Pernambuco during September were as follows: 1880 1879 Customs.....840,495\$457 608,833\$024 Consulado.....230,394 815 136,113 347 Internal revenue.. 427,246 280 38,525 143 The late storms in Santa Catharina, mentioned in our last issue, caused the overflow of the Rio Itajaib, and the inundation of the village of that name. Forty-eight houses were totally destroyed and a large amount of property was either destroyed or damaged. The loss at Itajaib and in the neighboring colonies is estimated at 2,000,000\$. At last accounts, 28 lives were lost. The poor prisoners in quod at Nareeth, Pernambuco, are threatened with starvation, owing to a reduction in the annual appropriation from 2,000\$ to 500\$. That amount has already been expended and now there is a complete lack of supplies. Efforts are making to meet the emergency by a private subscription. The prisoners threaten to break jail if they are not better cared for. A poor matuto of Palmares, Pernambuco, complains of a police officer after this fashion. He was sitting on his horse in the street on the 1st of September, when the police subdelegado came up and ordered him to dismount, as he wanted the horse. The matuto refused, when he was compelled to dismount and the horse was given to a soldier who rode away on it in company with the subdelegado. And for such slight reason the unparitric matuto feels aggrieved. The Gazeta de Campinas relates that, some days ago, a man purchased a ticket and a half for himself and wife, on the Paulista railway. When the agent came to mark the tickets he asked for whom the half ticket was intended. The passenger indicated his wife, to which the agent replied that ladies were required to pay full fare. To this the passenger retorted that the lady was his "dear half" and that he had paid accordingly. That opens up boundless possibilities in the economic world. The Paulista press is highly indignant at the suppression of the sale of Ypiranga lottery tickets by the authorities in Rio. But what can our São Paulo friends expect? If provincial tickets are to be sold here for 100\$, the local industry will suffer. A chance for 1,000,000\$ at 10\$ has a very great advantage over a chance for 20,000\$ at 20\$, and in so unequal a contest the latter will be certain to go to the wall. Our provincial colleagues should not forget that the economic doctrines of the day do not admit the principle of free trade, not even in lottery tickets. A man must buy and sell just as the penny economists think best. On the 23rd ult. the police authorities of Pará arrested one Manoel da Matta Pimentel on a charge by João Francisco Lagoas that he had stolen 1,500\$ from him. Pimentel asserts, however, that he met Lagoas on the 22nd and offered to sell him 40,000\$ in counterfeit currency for 20,000\$. Lagoas accepted the offer and agreed to pay 3,000\$ in cash, and give his note for 17,000\$, payable in six months. They met again that afternoon, when Pimentel gave Lagoas four packages which he described as "the thing," and received 1,000\$ in cash with a promise of the remaining 20,000\$ that same evening. Lagoas afterwards discovered that the packages contained nothing but strips of brown paper, and he then had Pimentel arrested for theft. The latter was held to answer the charge. But suppose the packages had contained counterfeit money?

The August receipts of the Ceará postoffice were 2,912\$580. The Ceará provincial assembly closed its sessions on the 25th ult. Further reports from Pará state that very few of the fugitive slaves escaped who were attacked by the Ananabés on the Rio Curuá. Their settlement was destroyed. Twelve slaves were freed by the Pernambuco abolition club and four by the academic emancipation club on the 28th ult.—the ninth anniversary of the passage of the Rio Branco emancipation law. Guaratinguetá, S. Paulo, is to have a theatre to be known as the "Theatro Carlos Gomes." The shareholders had a meeting on the 2nd inst., and felicitated the composer. A quarrel and separation resulted in the shooting of Maria Rodrigues Cordeiro by her husband, Luiz Gonzaga Lopes, at Goyaz on the 2nd ult. The murderer escaped. The treasury of the province of Amazonas is said to have a surplus of 400,000\$, and the provincial government is without any authorization to spend it. An extraordinary meeting of the assembly is to be convoked in order to provide the needed authorizations. An easier way out of the difficulty would be to send an ex-minister of finance up there to govern the province for a few weeks. The total receipts of the province of Goyaz during the year 1878-79, including a balance from the preceding year of 11,498\$851, were 228,873\$391. The expenditures for the same year were 207,900\$461, leaving a balance of 20,972\$930 of which only 486\$391 represented cash in hand. For the year 1880-81 the receipts are estimated at 202,041\$310 and the expenditures at 220,970\$522, leaving an estimated deficit of 18,929\$212. The humanity of Brazilian slavery finds a significant illustration in the following incident by the Gazeta of Uberaba, Minas Geraes. At Quebra-Anzol, district of Patrocínio, in the early part of July, two men named Manoel Mendes and Romulo severely whipped a poor slave and a few days after an uncle of the two men, named José da Cunha, arrived, and on being told of the whipping said that they did not know how to punish, and that the bicho had not been properly whipped. The brute then took a razor a literally gashed the poor slave's back into shreds, after which he applied pepper sauce, salt and lemon juice to the wounds. The wife of the unhappy black, begging pardon for her husband, was also whipped. The man died from his cruel punishment the following day. An inquiry was made by the police, of course, and the neighborhood was highly indignant at the outrage, but nothing is more certain than that these inhuman wrongs will escape all punishment for their crime. The total national debt of Great Britain on the 31st of March last was 2,775,755,608. The tea crop of India this year is estimated at 70,000,000 pounds, nearly double the yield of 1878. Ten years ago it was only 14,000,000 pounds. The Board of Trade returns for the month of July show that the exports of Great Britain amounted to a total value of £20,279,579 against £16,611,122 during the same month of 1879, and the imports to £33,354,595 against £30,186,072 in 1879. A NEW coffee disease is said to have attacked the coffee plantations in New Granada. It is a fungoid growth of a greenish color at first but afterwards turning to brown, and is in phosphorescent at night. Both leaves and fruit fall from the trees, which are left quite bare. Surely the sulphur treatment so successful in the ordinary disease (Hemileia vastatrix) might be tried with advantage in this case also.—British Mercantile Gazette. SHOULD Thomas Hetherly, who was in Buenos Ayres for a time when the yellow fever was raging, A. D. 1879, see the announcement of his mother's death in this day's paper, he is earnestly requested to write home immediately, or to return. BROWN'S ESSENCE OF Jamaica Ginger. Purchasers of Brown's Ginger are warned against piratical counterfeiters intended to sell the celebrated reputation of this matchless article. All real Brown's Ginger is prepared by Frederick Brown, Philadelphia, and the label bearing his name is incorporated with his private U. S. Internal Revenue Stamp, to counterfeit which is felony. BROWN'S GINGER—For Traveler's use. BROWN'S GINGER—For Summer Complaints. BROWN'S GINGER—For Cramps and Colic. BROWN'S GINGER—For Sea Sickness, Nausea. BROWN'S GINGER—Stimulant: no reaction. BROWN'S GINGER—Used by Army and Navy. BROWN'S GINGER—Used all over the World. BROWN'S GINGER—Counters impure Water. BROWN'S GINGER—Prevents Malarial Disease. BROWN'S GINGER—Delicious Summer Drink. BROWN'S GINGER—Excellent in Rheumatism. Everybody knows the value of "Brown's Ginger" as a household necessity and preventive of disease. Be sure your druggist gives you the right kind—Brown's Ginger, as described above. The weakness following long continued fever or any serious illness, is one of the most serious as well as distressing symptoms of convalescence. Alcoholic stimulants are objectionable, as their use is always followed by depression after the stimulating effect has passed off. Small bulk with no reaction in what is required, and the use of a teaspoonful or two of Brown's Ginger in a half tumbler of sweetened water, every hot or ice cold, as preferred, meets the want. Brown's Ginger sustains the strength, causes the kin to act well, and promotes digestion. CENTRAL DEPOSIT: No. 8 Rua São Pedro

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