

# THE RIO NEWS.

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NUMBER 34

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### THE SITUATION.

As the year draws to a close the situation of public affairs in this empire is becoming more and more involved, more and more precarious. Bad as has been the state of affairs during the year now closing, there are indications that we have not yet seen the worst, and that the year to come will be a critical, if not a disastrous one. We do not call attention to this for the purpose of creating alarm in business circles, much less that of throwing any obstacle in the way of the government in its efforts to find some favorable solution to the problem; but there are some plain facts which it is our duty to place before business men who are now making their plans for the coming year, and before the government even which seems to have wrapped itself in fancied security simply because a parliamentary committee has struck an imaginary balance in its accounts.

In the first place the deceptive nature of the work accomplished in the General Assembly in this flattering equalization of receipts and expenditures should be fully understood. The estimates, as is well known, are not based upon the actual expenditures of the past year, for the accounts are not sufficiently liquidated for such a purpose; they are largely arbitrary and are based almost wholly upon previous estimates. In the last budget—for the year 1881-82—the ministry estimated an unavoidable deficit in the ordinary receipts and expenditures, which the Chamber reduced somewhat but did not succeed in eliminating it. In the Senate, however, there was a determined effort to turn this deficit into a surplus, and by cutting a little off here and adding a little there the effort was finally crowned with so much success that there is an actual estimated surplus of 2,311,327\$. It does not appear that there was a cutting down in the great army of office-holders, nor in the large and increasing demands upon the public purse; the reduction of expenditures and the increase in receipts were simply a committee-room feat, based upon suppositions and supplemented by nothing more tangible than good intentions. In spite of the existing depression and unpromising outlook in business, the estimated receipts from import taxes were increased; and in spite of the undiminished army of public servants and the increasing demand on the treasury through interest and subvention charges the expenditures were reduced. An equalization based upon such legislation certainly can not be accepted as a substantial base for business calculations.

The real deception, however, lies in the announcement that the budget shows a surplus of 2,311,327\$, when in fact it shows a deficit of over twelve thousand contos. After specifying the amounts appropriated to the several departments and the estimated receipts, from which this supposititious surplus is obtained (vide *Diário Oficial* of Nov. 9), the budget then authorizes the expenditure of 14,536,626\$597—not one *quintem* of which is included in the regular appropriations. It also authorizes the opening of supplementary credits—or in plain English, deficiency credits—for each of the several departments, for which no sums are stated and no limits are fixed. What these credits may amount to no one can determine but some approximate idea can be drawn from the fact that nearly 20,000,000\$ have been already voted by the present legislature, 9,735,821\$704 of which have been approved by imperial decree up to date. An imaginary surplus of a little over two thousand contos becomes, therefore, an authorized deficit of over thirty thousand contos—and that too on the basis of the revenue receipts fixed by the budget. This kind of legislative legerdemain may possibly deceive some—in fact, from what the London correspondent of the *Journal do Commercio* says about its influence on Brazilian securities there, it has deceived many—but we would warn the government that such an expedient can not be permanent and that it will surely be followed by a reaction which will bring untold disasters upon the country. As

long as the imperial budget remains as meaningless as it now is and as long as such enormous sums are appropriated for deficiency and extraordinary purposes outside of it, just so long will there be confusion and deficits in the accounts of the imperial treasury. In this one practice there is a grave danger to the empire, for it brings fancied security to the unthinking while leaving open the way to unlimited expenditures through these irregular appropriations.

In the second place the continuation of the mistaken policy of granting government aid to private enterprises is slowly and surely involving the treasury in difficulties of the most critical character. We are well aware that such aid often results in great advantage to a country and that it is a policy which is looked upon as patriotic and far-seeing. Such a policy, however, must be accommodated to the resources of the country and must be governed by rigid restrictions. It is evident that Brazil has long since passed the limit of safety in granting such aid and that she is now mortgaging her future in behalf of private enterprises to a dangerous extreme. Were the country rapidly progressing in population and wealth and were the revenues in excess of the expenditures then this policy might be continued without serious danger; but when it is contemporaneous with a long series of deficits, an inelastic revenue, stagnant industries and a comparatively stationary population, it is a policy which can not be restricted within too narrow limits.

And furthermore the present outlook for business as influenced by slavery and the movement to secure its abolition, is anything but satisfactory. It can not be doubted that the abolition of slavery will bring a crisis upon the country, and that there will be grave losses in all commercial and industrial pursuits. The crisis must come, whatever policy of emancipation may be adopted. Slavery has already entailed grave evils upon the country, and more than one species of embarrassment in business and of decay in industry can be traced to its influence. In an economic sense its abolition is a matter of urgent import, as no permanent change for the better, no real prosperity can come until it is substituted by free labor. The manifest purpose of the government and the slave-holding class to prolong the evil as long as possible is therefore a policy which no thoughtful business man can overlook, for it means a continuation of all these evils, all this industrial stagnation until the last slave shall disappear. The enormous indebtedness weighing upon the large plantations—and we refer to the current reports of the Banco do Brazil and Banco Predial, both of which have large outstanding real estate loans—will of a necessity be a great obstacle in the way of a settlement of the question—even of its ultimate settlement. Until agricultural prosperity comes there can be no liquidation of this indebtedness, until these loans are met there can be no abolition of slavery without loss, and until slavery disappears there can be no prosperity—an eternal circle of causes and effects which can only be cut as was the Gordian knot—by one imperial blow. It would seem to be the wisest policy to meet the difficulty at once, to endure all its losses and complications together, and then to inaugurate the new era of free labor and prosperity at the earliest day possible. This, however, will not be done except through a revolution, and business men may therefore count upon a continuation of the present state of affairs for a long time to come.

The possibility of solving the question of emancipation by indemnifying the slaveholders, is a measure which will eventually come up for discussion. Its adoption, however, will be simply transforming a giant evil into a giant burden. At the low estimate of 600\$ on the average, the present slave population will require an outlay of at least 850,000,000\$ for its indemnification—a burden which the Brazil to-day can not possibly assume.

In view of these few factors—and they are but a part—which go to make up the

situation of to-day it is clear that the outlook is critical. A very large sum of the capital available for business purposes is constantly locked up in lotteries, collections are made with great difficulty, the coffee dealers are declining to make further advances to the planters, exchange is weak and low, there are still very large outstanding credits resulting from the vicious long credit system in vogue here, large sums are being sunk in unprofitable enterprises, Brazil's supremacy as a coffee-producing country is threatened by the Central American states, a malicious tenderness is growing up between the empire and the Argentine Republic—and there is a fatal belief in official circles that all is going well. It is true that wise statesmanship will take the country through all these threatening difficulties, but upon that contingency no business man can build. He who would survive the threatening storm must meet it thoroughly prepared.

### GOVERNMENT SPECULATIONS.

The following letter from a well-informed merchant to the New York *Commercial Bulletin* of November 1, regarding Ex-Minister Afonso Celso's disastrous speculation in coffee is worthy of careful consideration. It should be borne in mind that "Merchants' predictions as to the results of last February's speculations were fulfilled to the letter, and as they were based upon certain well defined economic laws with which every business man should be familiar, it is more than probable that his predictions as to the results of the next venture will be as fully realized. We can not believe that Counselor Sariva will imitate his predecessor in this matter, but as he has carefully kept the door open for such a venture, and as the temptation is sure to come, we can not urge the following comment too strongly upon his attention.

COFFEE SPECULATION OF THE BRAZIL GOVERNMENT.  
NEW YORK, Oct. 30, 1880.

To the Editor of the *Commercial Bulletin*:  
Your Rio de Janeiro correspondent, under date of October 4, alluding to the Brazilian government coffee speculation, says that the prime minister, Sariva, announced in the course of the discussion on the 18th of September that he considered the operation perfectly legal, and that he should not hesitate to do the same whenever he saw a profit in it for the government. All this talk of Prime Minister Sariva is what in Portuguese is called *palavra*. If the government should venture on such disastrous speculations next February, it will be the repetition of last year. Then exchange was 235 1/2; it fell a few days to 220, and I predicted that it would go as low as 201, which it did, on May 5. This was a loss of over 15 per cent; for the shipment of the coffee shipped in February at the cost of 9,000 rs. and 23 1/2 d. exchange, when on May 5 the price was only 9,200 rs., with an exchange of 201, or a difference of 2 1/2 c. U. S. currency per lb.

Now I will only say that if Mr. Sariva should venture on such speculations, with a supply of coffee this year exceeding 30 per cent in this country and in Europe that of last year, we will witness a decline of 25 per cent on present values, and the exchange at Rio will be again below 200, which will give to the Brazilian planter so much less for his crop, and consequently less revenue to the treasury of the empire, which soon will feel the effect of such statements as Mr. Sariva.

MERCHANT.  
CONSULAR SCANDALS.  
The occurrence of scandals and difficulties in the American consular service is often used as a base for injurious reflections on the national character. The error of this conclusion is evident to all who know the defects of the system itself—a system which fills many of the more important positions with pedantic and friends of politicians rather than with a trained body of men or business men of good character and standing. We are glad to say that all American consuls are not men who delight in making themselves obnoxious wherever they go, but still they are sufficiently numerous to more than warrant the following censure which we extract from the New York *Commercial Bulletin* of September 16:

Our Yokohama correspondence incidentally alludes to the personal eccentricities of one or two of our consuls in that quarter that, to say the least of it, reflect but little credit either on the men or of the office. It is to be hoped that Congress at its next session will take in hand the whole consular system, and either make it what it ought to be—if that is possible—or abolish it altogether. There is no lack of promises of some such reform year after year, but for some reason or other nothing is ever done worth speaking of to make them good. The remonstrances and complaints of merchants who have to do business with these officials are chronic; but, as a rule, these are deemed inadvisable to have important to our Washington statement that that dilapidated or troublesome politicians should be provided with places. We are aware that these people must somehow be quartered upon the public treasury, but it is surely possible that the thing can be done without having them prey upon the merchants or entangling upon the American name local so many unsavory scandals.

### A MODEL DUEL.

As a rule our admiration for duels has been of a very mild character. Whatever may be their pleasures and honors, there is a possibility of accident connected with them which neutralizes their every charm and renders them physically distasteful to us. We are glad to say, however, that our sentiments are undergoing a radical change in this respect through the timely discovery of two valorous Uruguayan editors who have at last found a way to make a duel both effective and bloodless. The following correspondence between the two antagonists, who preside over the destinies of two Montevideo sheets, *La Razón* and *El Diario del Comercio*, illustrates fully just how the duel was fought.

"Sñr. Herrera y Oñes:  
The insults you heap upon me in yesterday's *Diario del Comercio* deserve no reply but a lash across the face, which I would give you were you within reach. But the intention is sufficient, so you may consider I have given it to you.  
EDUARDO ACEVEDO Y DIAZ.

To which Sñr. Herrera y Oñes replies:  
Sñr. Eduardo, the Romantic:  
Lashes on the face are returned by shots through the head; you may consider yourself shot by me. Fools of your sort may be scorned to death; consider yourself dead.  
JULIO HERRERA Y OÑES.

Now that's what we call pleasant and comfortable all the way through. Both men have relieved their feelings, and the earth has not been soiled with their blood; each has demolished his antagonist, and the tender sympathies of friends have been spared. It is one of the most touching combinations of defiance and self-consideration that we ever saw; it is an example which opens a new era in the time-honored practice of duelling. Had this discovery been made years ago that terrible encounter between the young Hercules of the *Gazeta* and the rising Apollo of the Brazilian bar would have been avoided, and both would have been spared the harrowing anxiety about meeting death at each other's hands. To avoid a repetition of that lamentable occurrence we would advise the adoption of the Uruguayan method at once—and there are no more suitable ministers for the occasion than those two fiery Antiochs—Arístides and Afonso—who have been making such havoc in the *Journal's* ink barrel.

### RAILROAD NOTES.

—The October receipts of the "Recife S. Francisco" railway were 73,827\$452, and the expenses 42,157\$827.

—The October receipts of the Baturité railway were 25,225\$313, and the expenses 17,884\$234, leaving a net balance of 7,337\$879.

—A bill is in reading in the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly authorizing the extension to Macaé of the Rio Bonito branch of the Niteroi and Cantagalo railway.

—The *Journal's* London correspondent of the 23rd October notes the payment of interest on the Bahia railway for the half year ending June 30, at the rate of 7 per cent, per annum. The amount destined for this purpose was 420,086\$94.

—The *Journal do Recife* says that the increase of 15 per cent in the passenger fares of the "Recife S. Francisco" railway, occasioned by Afonso Celso's *taxa* on passenger fares, has decreased the receipts from that source in a much greater proportion.

—Decree 7734, of June 21, published in the *Diário Oficial* on the 22nd of October and on the 30th ult., authorizes the Minas and Rio Railway (the Rio Venie line) to contract business in the empire of Brazil. The capital is fixed at 16,150,000\$, upon which an annual interest of 7 per cent, is guaranteed.

—Complaints are made of the irregular and defective service on the Dom Pedro II line, especially at Cachoeira and the terminal station in this city. A Guaratinguetá correspondent of the *Journal* says that it takes over ten days to convey freight from that place to this city—fully as long as it would take a mule troop to perform the same service. It is evident that the Dom Pedro II officials are not only negligent, but they seem to have wholly mistaken the character of their duties. Railways are intended to serve the people, and not to afford lucrative positions to individuals.

The amount of butter exported from New York during the year ending June 30 was 31,061,610 lbs., valued at \$5,179,071; in the same period there were 10,833,320 lbs. of oleomargarine exported, valued at \$2,581,317. The butter averages 16 1/2 c. per lb., and the oleomargarine a little over 13c.

It is estimated that the amount of gold and silver coin now in this country aggregates \$70,418,914, which with the paper circulation of \$700,000,000 makes the total circulating medium of the country \$1,270,418,914. This, estimating the population at 50,000,000, gives a specie circulation of 11.44 per capita, and of paper 14.05; making a total circulation of 25.49 per capita from the most creditable data obtainable. It appears that only Great Britain and France now possess a greater gold circulation than the United States. Germany has within the last sixteen months lost nearly \$120,000,000 of the gold circulation, the larger portion of which has been absorbed by the United States and France.—*N. Y. Commercial Bulletin*, Sept. 11.

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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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—Rua São Pedro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, DECEMBER 5TH, 1880.

The result of the pro-slavery interpellation of the 25th ultimo is a matter for sincere congratulation. The purpose of this interpellation was to force the government into a declaration of opinion, which it was believed would be hostile to the present anti-slavery movement. It was a deliberate attempt to suppress all further efforts toward the abolition of slavery. The attack upon the American minister, which was as weak as it was unwarranted, was simply a secondary consideration; but as it offered a tangible excuse for bringing the question before the government, it was seized upon with all the avidity that a drowning man grasps a straw. As might have been anticipated the government flatly refused to consider either the propriety or impropriety of Mr. Hilliard's private acts. The unprecedented attempt of a legislative body in this calling a foreign minister to account for his private acts left no other course to pursue, and in declining to consider the matter Counselor Saravia very effectively crushed one of the most childish ventures which the pro-slavery party has thus far undertaken. With the exception of two or three persons—one of whom is now prostituting his official position by writing anonymous, defamatory attacks upon Minister Hilliard's private character for the columns of a contemporary sheet—with such exceptions, this result of the interpellation will be received with satisfaction. The liberty of discussion and the inviolability of private life are too sacred to be thus tampered with, and in according the rights of discussion and association to the abolitionists, Counselor Saravia has affirmed one of the greatest guarantees for the peaceable settlement of this question that could have been given.

The announcement made a few days since that the minister of agriculture had instructed the director of the Dom Pedro II railway to run a special morning train for the transportation of milk, fruits, vegetables, etc., into the city, is a step which should receive the heartiest commendation. Add to this the further instruction that the service shall be performed at the lowest rates possible and we have at last the beginning of a service which can not fail to be of the greatest benefit to the city and to the small farmers in its vicinity. We are well aware that the quantity of this class of products transported will be small for some time to come, and that the service will be anything else than a source of revenue to the railway. The high freight rates heretofore ruling and the delays and inconvenient service performed by the ordinary freight trains have been great obstacles in the way of shipping products of so perishable a character, and as a consequence there has been no encouragement for their production. The low fertile grounds lying between the city and the mountains are well adapted for gardening purposes, and the valleys and slopes of the mountains produce readily many of the fruits and vegetables of temperate climates which are now imported at great cost. There are no physical reasons why this market should not be abundantly and cheaply supplied with the best of garden and dairy products from its own neighborhood, instead of bringing so large a part of them from abroad. The encouragement of small farming in the vicinity of the city, and of dairy farming and the production of exotic fruits and vegetables in the mountains, will lead to the development of industries which will be sources of incalculable wealth and prosperity to the country. It will also tend to lower the cost of living in the city, and to add to its health and material comfort.

There are thousands of poor people who now have no industrial future whatever before them. They can not go into the country and work on the plantations; slavery stands in the way. There are few industries which demand their unskilled services, and the few occupations in the city in which they could be employed have long been excessively overcrowded. Give these people a chance to buy or rent small plots of ground, and then give them easy access to market, and one part of the industrial problem in Brazil will be solved. These people are ready and they are abundantly able to add largely to the productive wealth of the country. To give them employment and an opportunity to acquire property is a step of far greater importance to the country than the preservation of a few great estates burdened with debt and weakened with slavery and government protection. Even as the small farmers and gardeners in the neighborhood of London, Paris, New York, and other large cities, have grown rich and have been able to extract astonishing profits from their small holdings, so may the same class here attain the same results. There is no need of protection nor special privileges; their only requirements are land and cheap transportation. Now that the minister of agriculture has undertaken to meet one of these demands, not only through a reduction in the rates but also through an adaptation of the railway service to the needs of these small producers, we shall expect to see a decided change for the better at no distant day.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The sessions of the Senate still continue to be almost exclusively occupied with the discussions in 2nd reading of the electoral reform bill. The measure has now been considered to Art. xv, and promises soon to be completed in 2nd reading. On the 24th ult., the deficiency bill of 354,575,803 for the department of marine, was received from the Chamber, and on the 27th it was reported favorably by a Senate committee. The extraordinary credit of 5,000,000 to the navy and 4,000,000 to the army, was finally passed on the 24th and returned to the Chamber for concurrence. A supplementary credit of 103,151,826 to the department of justice was passed to 3rd reading on the 27th. An extraordinary credit of 198,967,331 for the department of agriculture was received from the Chamber on the 27th, another credit to the same department was passed on the 30th, and still another of 3,851,344,201 received a favorable committee report on the 21st instant. The aggregate of all these supplementary and extraordinary credits is now about 20,000,000, in addition to the special credits authorized by the last budget which amounted to 14,536,628,597. The deficits growing out of this year's legislation now exceed 30,000,000.

The sessions of the Chamber of Deputies have been characterized by the customary irregularity—there have been only five sessions since the close of our last report. The abolition movement still occupies much attention and crops out at all times, whatever may be the subject under discussion. The excellent organization of the small abolition party, however, enables it to more than hold its position. The extraordinary credit of 198,967,331 asked by the minister of agriculture for colonization purposes was passed on the 24th ult. The credit to the minister of finance of 3,360,549,896 for various purposes and 340,000 for the construction of a revenue cruiser, as amended by the Senate, was passed on the same day. The session of the 29th ult. was almost wholly taken up with a personal altercation between two northern deputies, who elicited the house with histories of each other's ancestors.

The interpellation of Deputy Belford Duarte on the views of the government regarding the abolition movement and the banquet given to the American minister on the 20th ult., came off on the 25th. The Maranhão deputy made an elaborate argument in defense of slavery and argued that it is "an element of our civilization." He urged that the abolition movement is endangering the peace of the country, and that the letter of the American minister on the results of emancipation in the United States and in attending an abolition banquet is an interference in the domestic affairs of Brazil. In response the prime minister said that while the government adheres to the law of Sept. 28, 1871, which provides for the gradual extinction of slavery, it respects all contrary opinions. The American minister had not interfered in the domestic affairs of the country, and his appearance at the banquet of the 20th was in a purely private capacity—a matter subject neither to the approval nor disapproval of the government. This position of the ministry is looked upon as a triumph by the abolitionists, as it defeats the efforts of the pro-slavery party to check all discussion and to suppress all abolition meetings. The reply of Counselor Saravia was followed by an animated discussion in which Deputies Joaquim Nabuco and Jeronimo Sodre made eloquent anti-slavery speeches.

The importation of non-dutiable goods into the United States during the fiscal year 1879-80 amounted to a total value of nearly \$2,300,000,000. The total value of the dutiable imports was \$667,000,000. It is seen therefore that the value of goods which paid no duty was nearly 24 per cent. of the total importation.

LOCAL NOTES.

The Emperor completed his fifty-fifth year on the 2nd instant. The American packet City of Para, arrived at New York on the 3rd ult. For a process for killing ants and styled "mata-formigas," Henrique Brant has received a five years' privilege. The American minister, Hon. Henry W. Hilliard, goes to Petropolis about the 15th inst. where he has taken a residence for the summer. Decree 7,970, of the 23rd ult., grants a ten years concession to Samuel Beaven for a coffee cleaner, known as the "Ventilador Ipanema."

It is reported that the Argentine government has invited Brazil to join in a mediation between the Pacific coast belligerents, the United States to be also invited to take a part.

The Barão de Arinos, Brazilian minister to Belgium, who has been appointed arbitrator in the settlement of claims between the United States and France, arrived at New York on the 25th of October.

The latest polka bears the pleasing title of "Essenciamente Agricola." In our opinion the new title will suit the genus as well as the individual; there seems to be an agricultural flavor about the whole lot of them.

The French ironclad frigate *Triumphant*, Gervais, commander, entered this port on the 24th ult., en route to the Pacific. She carries Rear-Admiral Baron Brossard de Corbiogny, and left for her destination on the 27th.

The inauguration of the Rua de S. Clemente branch of the Botanical Garden tramway took place on the 29th ult. The outward service on that street will be performed by the Largo dos Leões cars, and the return service by the Botanical Garden cars.

The minister of agriculture has issued instructions to the director of the Dom Pedro II railway that a more rigid supervision shall be exercised over the carrying of letters and packages subject to postal charges. The practice of carrying letters without stamps or without having them cancelled has grown into a grave abuse.

There are many residents of the suburbs of Botafogo, Lammargens and the Laga who are becoming curious about the police. Houses are broken into daily and robberies of the most audacious character are occurring without any apparent effort to prevent them. If our good friends will deal with the criminals without any reference to the police, they will find themselves just as safe—if not safer.

The statement made by some anonymous party to the effect that the diplomatic corps at this capital was invited to the banquet given to Minister Hilliard, and that every member of it declined to attend, is emphatically denied by the officers of the Anti-Slavery Society, and by every person who has any knowledge of the facts. There is a petty malignity in all such accusations which is simply beneath contempt.

The popular reception held by Jupiter at the Imperial Observatory was brought to a close on the 28th ult. The total number of guests during the month was 6,000. It is said that Jupiter will now go to some sea-side resort during the summer for rest and recuperation. The fatigues of the last month's exhibition, and the depressing influence of a little pen dedicated to him by the "People's Muse," have seriously disturbed his system, and made this rest absolutely necessary.

The "People's Muse" wrote a poem the other day on opening the Passéio Publico early in the morning for the convenience of bathers. To request a second onslaught of that character, the request was complied with at once. It is an unusual thing to see a Muse stooping to the ordinary things of life, particularly to so ordinary a matter as bathing, but the experiment seems to be a magnificent success. Now let the Muse dip his pen into the smells that afflict us, and a grateful people will rise up and call him blessed!

A newspaper of this city recently announced the occurrence of a collision on Long Island Sound between two steamers—the *Stonington* and *Norragansett*. The provincial press has now taken it up and is relating the details of the "late" disaster. As the accident occurred many months ago and was mentioned in the newspapers here at the time, this fresh outbreak seems almost incomprehensible. Perhaps our newsy contemporary, the *Crusadeiro*, who is sometimes addicted to telling a good story twice, can give the needed explanation.

The frequency and boldness of the robberies which have recently occurred throughout the city has led some good people to believe that the policeman has resumed the ways and habits of the ordinary citizen, and has surrendered the special privilege of parading the streets at night for that going to bed. This is a mistake. The policeman is still abroad, and performs his manifold duties with all the discretion and resolution of olden times. On the 28th, at 10 o'clock at night, one of them disputed valiantly in the Largo de S. Domingos with one José Thomaz Garcia, and then clinched the argument by slapping his opponent three times.

There is no "pent-up Uta" that Rio de Janeiro; she does not propose to take a back seat, even in the lottery business. The marvellous success—figuratively speaking—of the Ypiranga lottery of São Paulo has stirred up the sluggish blood of our municipal legislators, and we are now to have a lottery of our own before which even that of monumental aspirations will sink into insignificance. The scheme is already published for one grand lot of 6,000,000. There are to be 500,000 tickets of 12,000 each, and every one of them, except 434,700, will draw a prize. There is a great future before the country—and it's full of lotteries.

The minister of agriculture has issued instructions to Col. W. Milnor Roberts to make an examination of the bars on the coast of the province of Sergipe.

The department of agriculture made a requisition on the Botanical Garden R. R. company, on the 20th ult., for 400 passes for the department of empire.

The project of founding a great university with the proceeds of the Ypiranga lotteries, instead of erecting a monument, is gaining ground in São Paulo.

The total number of immigrants arriving at this port in September was 999, which number includes all third-class passengers. The departures were 142.

The drawing of the Ypiranga lottery has been postponed to the 25th of January—which means further embarrassment from the locking up of so large a sum of money.

Decree 7,917, of the 23rd ult., concedes an interest guarantee of 7 per cent. per annum on a capital of 400,000 invested in a central sugar mill in the municipality of Porto Feliz, São Paulo.

The number of immigrants—including all third-class passengers—arriving at this port during the month of October was 1,980, of which 143 received subsidies. The departures during the same month were 498.

Decree 7,922, of the 30th ult., elevates the provincial postoffice of São Paulo to one of the first class. Next to that of Rio de Janeiro the São Paulo office has been for some time the most prosperous in the empire.

The minister of finance has instructed the treasury officials not to accept any document written with violet ink. The use of this ink was prohibited by a circular of August 20, 1874, but it has not been rigidly observed.

The British government, through its minister at this capital, has asked the Brazilian government for information relative to the Catta Branca and Cocoes slave questions, and to the slaves held by the S. João d'El-Rei and Santos mining companies.

The distinguished Brazilian advocate, Dr. Ferreira Vianna, is delivering a course of lectures on "protection to national industries" at the S. José school. It is to be hoped that the illustrious lecturer will show just what the country will have to pay for the luxury of a few exotic industries.

The daily mortality reports of the Misericórdia hospital show that the health of this port still continues good. The total number of deaths in this city in the month of November was 709, which gives a daily average of 23.6 and an annual average of 26.5 per thousand. This is only a fraction above the averages for October. The number of deaths from yellow fever was 9, from other fevers 52, and from consumption 160—nearly 23 per cent. of the total.

One of the saddest accidents that has been our lot to record was the death of Mr. Herman La-port on the morning of the 28th ult. He had been bathing on the praia de Sandade, Botafogo, and while his companions were dressing he went back for a final dive. Not re-appearing his friends began to search for him and found him where he had dived into the water. Death seems to have been instantaneous. He was an employee in the house of Schmidt, Symonds & McKinlay and had been in Brazil only a very short time.

Under date of the 22nd ult. the minister of agriculture addressed a circular to the several provincial presidents asking for statistical information on the following heads: number of merchants with nationality, number of banks and joint stock companies with amount of capital and dividends paid, value of imports and exports during past year, commercial values, shipping statistics of each port, causes of commercial decline, steamship statistics, schools and professors, manufacturers, fisheries, and mines. The information is desired not later than January 15th next.

Decree No 7,886, of the 9th ult., authorizes the Dyle & Bacalan joint stock company to transact business in the empire of Brazil. This company is organized in France with a capital of 7,500,000 francs and undertakes to secure concessions, construct and "explore" railways, river and ocean steamship lines, shipyards, railway shops, factories, mills, breweries, etc. One purpose of the organization is to supply materials and make repairs at the Dyle shops at Louvain, Belgium, and the Bacalan shops at Bordeaux. The seat of the company is in Paris.

On Sunday, the 28th ult., there was a large assemblage of people among them ministers and other high dignitaries of state, at the Typographia Nacional to witness the first public trial of a new lottery drawing machine. The new "wealth-distributor" is a ruby steam and the globes in which are stored the fateful numbers are ornamented with the arms of Brazil. The device provides for it a simultaneous drawing of both the prize and the number, which is accomplished by dropping two numbered balls from the globes into glass receivers below.

The report of Col. W. Milnor Roberts on his survey of the Rio São Francisco has just been issued from the Typographia Nacional. It contains a detailed account of that river from its mouth to the falls of Pirapora—2,122 kilometers. The report is accompanied with some very valuable rain tables in which are given the comparative rainfall at Salara in Minas Geras, Rio de Janeiro, and Fortaleza, in Ceará, for a term of years. The accompanying reports of Prof. O. A. Derby on the geology of the São Francisco valley and of Dr. Sampaio on the region lying between Carinhana, in the S. Francisco, and Bahia, are invaluable additions to the knowledge of this little known part of Brazil.

The sailing of the American packet City of Rio de Janeiro has been postponed until the 7th inst.

Among the passengers by the American packet Mr. Henry S. Wetmore and family. Mr. Wetmore comes to this city as agent for the American Underwriters.

The report of the Brazilian Submarine Telegraph Co. for the half year ending June 30 shows that the receipts were 778,236 Rs. 6d., and the expenses 1,170,705 Rs. 10c., leaving a balance of 392,468 Rs. 8d. in the treasury. Adding the amount carried over from the last half year and deducting taxes the balance available was 599,653 Rs. 11d.

The export of cotton fabrics from New York in the month of August amounted to 9,555,547 yards, against 6,828,128 yards in the same month of last year.

The export of codfish from Newfoundland to Brazil in 1879 amounted to a total value of \$1,383,819. Brazil is Newfoundland's best customer in this trade.

The export of cotton goods from Great Britain to Brazil during the nine months ending September 30 amounted to 176,799,200 yards, against 134,676,200 yards in the same period of 1879.

The number of immigrants arriving at New York in the month of October was 306,697, and the total number arriving during the ten months ending October 31 was 285,327 against 112,272 during the same period of 1879. During the present year more Germans have landed than any other nationality.

Another Atlantic cable enterprise is announced. The new cable will be laid by an American company from New York to Flores, one of the Azores, thence to Linnis End, England. From the latter place branches will extend to Brest and to some point in Holland. The cable will be made according to a new method by which it is expected that one hundred words can be transmitted over per minute.

In spite of the prodigal way in which the public lands of the United States have been distributed of late years, there still remains a large body, surveyed and unsurveyed, to be disposed of. This is exclusive of Alaska, which is not supposed to contain much land suitable for cultivation. The public lands surveyed during last year amounted to 15,699,253 acres, making, with the previous surveys, a total of 752,557,165 acres in all surveyed, and leaving an estimated area of 1,062,317,727 acres yet to be surveyed. The annual survey is about double the number annually disposed of. How much really arable lands remain for the settler to take up cannot, of course, be determined from the land office reports, nor do the best authorities agree as to the proportion of good land to the whole domain.

A CONSIDERABLE increase in the lines of French steam navigation is observable, in anticipation, possibly, of the new law that is about to be passed respecting bounties to the commercial marine service. A line of steamers is being commenced between Bordeaux and New York, while another existing company, which hitherto has maintained a rather struggling existence, has just ordered the construction of two large steamers of 3,000 tons each, to run between Havre and the Plata River. They are to be called the *Assarix* and *St. Nicholas*, and from their small draft of water will be enabled to go up the river as far as Rosario. The Marcellus Company of Maritime Transport has also building in England two new boats, the *Narrare* and the *Beam*, destined for the Brazil service.—*Liverpool Journal of Commerce*, Nov. 5.

COMMERCIAL

Table with exchange rates: December 4th, 1880. Par value of the Brazilian mil reis (1000), gold 57 d. do do coin at \$4 per £1. sig. 54 45 cents. do \$1.00 (U. S. coin) in Brazilian gold... 1837 do £1. sig. in Brazilian gold... 8888

Table with exchange rates: Exchange. November 23—The schedule adopted by the English banks was 23 1/2 d. on London, 4 1/2 Rs. on Paris, 2 1/2 Rs. on Hamburg. There were some light transactions on London at 23 1/2 d. for bank paper and 2 1/2 d. for mercantile paper. Six per cents. 104 1/2; Banco do Brazil shares 26 1/2.



Nov. 29.—All the banks, except the Banco do Brazil, adopted today the schedule of 25/64 on London, 400 m. on Paris and 200 m. on Hamburg. No business reported. Six per cent. 100/100 and 1 1/4% sovereigns for Dec. 31, seller's option, 10/27.

MOVEMENT OF THE STOCK MARKET FROM NOV. 29, 1888, TO DECEMBER 1, 1888.

Table with columns: Shares, Company, Price. Lists various stocks like Banco do Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, and others with their respective prices.

At a meeting of the Commercial Association on the 30th ult., the following board of brokers was elected for 1889: Messrs. Henrique Harper (re-elected), Numa do Rego Machado (re-elected), Krenow Greve, and José Fernandes de Oliveira. The board enters on its new term of office on the 2nd proximo.

Table with columns: From imports, exports, Despatch maritime, Miscellaneous. Lists various trade items and their values.

MARKET REPORT Rio de Janeiro, December 4th, 1888.

Coffee.—After our last report on the 29th ult., our market became very quiet and remained so until the 31st when a reduction of 50 cts per cask for the lower and medium grades produced renewed activity. The latter, however, lasted but three days when, owing to more unfavorable advices from consuming markets, the quiet time returned.

SHIPPING NEWS.

ARRIVALS OF FOREIGN VESSELS. NOVEMBER 22. AUSTRIA.—Brig HARRY KALKER, 453 tons; Pey 97; 53 dcs coal to D. Pedro II R. R.

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Table with columns: Steamers, Sailing-Vessels. Lists ship names, destinations, and dates.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNED TO. Lists ship arrivals and their destinations.

Table with columns: DATE, NAME, WHERE TO, CARGO. Lists ship departures and their cargo.

Table with columns: NAME, TONS, WHERE FROM, CONSIGNEE. Lists ship names and their respective details.

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PROVINCIAL NOTES.

A murder took place recently at Rio Abaixo, near Itaituba, S. Paulo, in which Pedro da Silva was shot and stabbed by one Manoel Alves. The fines imposed upon the gas company at Para for insufficient light in 1,208 burners on the night of the 3rd ult., amounted to a total of 302\$.

The October receipts of the Manaus custom house were 38,526\$469. The sessions of the Rio de Janeiro provincial assembly have been extended to the 7th inst.

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TABLE OF DEPARTURES, 1880
DATE STEAMER DESTINATION
Dec. 9 Nava... Southampton and Havre via Bahia, Pernambuco, St. Vincent and London.

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