

Conference, there shall meet in the City of New York, United States of America, a Customs Congress, composed of one or more Delegates, appointed by each Government from among its Chief Customs Officers, Consuls, Presidents or members of their Chambers of Commerce, prominent merchants, or other persons known to possess technical and special knowledge in all customs matters.

The Governing Board of the International Bureau of American Republics, formed by the Diplomatic Representatives of said Republics and presided over by the Secretary of State of the United States of America, shall fix the date for the assembling of the Customs Congress, which shall be organized as it may decide, with the assistance or coöperation of the officials of said International Bureau; and its purpose and object shall be to decide and pass upon all propositions, which may be presented by the Delegates, or by the Committees which may be appointed, in respect to the Customs Service of each country and the legitimate collection of its fiscal dues.

Second. The matters which the Customs Congress is to resolve upon, are the following:

A. The uniformity of regulations for the entry, despatch and clearance of vessels engaged in international commerce.

B. The uniformity and simplification of customs formalities with regard to the manifests of vessels, wording of the same, and facts to be contained in the Consular Invoices, and Declarations to the Customs Houses.

C. The simplification and uniformity of Custom House formalities in the clearance of merchandise and baggage.

D. Adequate means for establishing a common nomenclature of products and merchandise of the American Republics, in English, Spanish, Portuguese and French.

1st. In order that it may become the basis for the statistical data of imports and exports in conformity with uniform models, and without interfering with the regulations which each country may have adopted for its own statistics; and

2d. In order that with greater details and specifications, it may be adopted in the tariff schedules and in the other customs laws of said countries, and that it may become the basis for the collection of the dues which each one of them may have established.

E. Adoption of a simple and uniform system for declaration and the Custom House dispatch of samples and merchandise forwarded in postal packages or parcels.

F. To simplify and make uniform the Custom House formalities, to which shall be subjected all merchandise or goods crossing only the territory of one country and destined for use or consumption in another or others, thus respecting the principle of free commercial transit on terrestrial or fluvial high-

ways of the nations of America, without collecting duties or charges other than those which may represent the just compensation for services rendered.

G. The advisability of determining definite periods for the assembling of future Customs Congresses.

H. To deal with any other matters connected with those herein mentioned, or which may be considered in a general way by the Customs Congress, as useful or proper to aid in the development of mercantile traffic.

I. The organization of a permanent Custom Commission, composed of individuals possessing technical and expert knowledge, and which, as a branch of the International Bureau of American Republics, or in any other form which the said Congress may deem proper, shall be charged principally with the execution of the resolutions which it may have adopted, with the comparison and study of customs and tariff laws of the nations of America, in order to suggest to the respective Governments, the promulgation of laws and measures which, with regard to Custom House formalities, may tend to simplify and to facilitate mercantile traffic.

Third. That in order to render useful and complete the study by the Customs Congress of the question referred to in Paragraph D of the preceding resolution, each one of the Governments of the American Republics shall cause to be studied, by the chief administrative officials of Custom Houses, the nomenclature or vocabulary formed by the International Bureau of said Republics, and that the Governments shall send as rapidly as possible to the Governing Board of said Bureau, their remarks or the corrections which they may have thought proper to suggest in the said vocabulary.

Said International Bureau shall present to the Customs Congress, in the simplest and most complete form possible, the suggestions made by the Governments, and, in addition, a French translation of the nomenclature already published.

Fourth. The ratification of the present resolution by the Governments of the American Republics, which may think proper to take such action shall be communicated to the Governing Board of the International Bureau of said Republics, within six months from the closing of the Conference.

Mexico, January 20th, 1902.—(Signed.) *Alberto Elmore.*—*Alberto Blest Gana.*—*Rosendo Pineda.*

The resolution on the Customs Congress, expressed exactly in the same terms as the foregoing report, was signed on the 22nd. of January, 1902, by the Delegations of the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chili, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Salvador, United States of America, Guatemala, Hayti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru and Uruguay.

NUMBER 4.

Sources of Production and Statistics.

SESSION OF DECEMBER 18th., 1901.

Secretary Macedo.—The Committee on Sources of Production and Statistics has presented its report, which the Chair rules that it shall be printed and distributed among the Honorable Delegates. It reads as follows.

REPORT of the Committee on Sources of Production and Statistics.

Few are the matters which can be so useful to international relations, as the mutual knowledge of nations in that which refers to their products, industries and wealth.

The science of Statistics which considers countries from a sociological standpoint, takes charge of that work, carrying the detailed account of all that affects vital forces and the means of the development of the nations. Unknown in antiquity when labor was but little appreciated and poor in results, it has, however, attained a great growth in modern commonwealths, in proportion as human effort, science applied to mechanics, mechanics applied to industry, and the exchange of commodities, reaching their greatest development, have multiplied gradually and increased the products of the earth.

Nations can now study one another at a distance. Books showing great labor, full of data of every kind, are published everywhere, dealing with all that can meet the universal demand for information; and the capitalist, the merchant and all who undertake business know, before commencing their operations, in what part of the world are found the natural products which they need; they also know which ones are lacking in this or that region, and the means they can avail themselves of to acquire those which are wanted, and where to sell those which they want to barter. The number of transactions which are carried on, based on that knowledge, cannot be easily calculated, nor can a proper estimate be made of those which fail by reason of the lack of the proper information.

No matter how tedious may appear the gathering and classification of data of that character, their transcendental importance cannot be ignored, for the publication of such data is the best advertisement which can be given to the World's markets. Countries which know one another are drawing together in a closer friendship. What science, philanthropy or sentimentalism cannot accomplish, the stimulus of interest does accomplish, guiding human communities to help and to serve one another, aware instinctively of their insufficiency if isolated, and of their power when united.

The American Republics are represented in this Conference, and their anxious desire is to draw nearer to one another, and to make stronger their friendship, will have taken a most advanced step towards that goal, if they succeed, in the future, in keeping in touch and in being at all times well informed among themselves of the evolution of their economic life. The mutual and periodical knowledge of national inventories will bring with it the opening of numer-

ous ways to business and to friendship of which our respective countries will be the object and the origin. Thus will be established a positive solidity of interests among the peoples inhabiting this Hemisphere, because the exchange of its products and manufactures, will link the sovereign American nations with strong and lasting ties.

In order to reach this result our object must therefore be to secure, not only exact and timely information upon all these matters, but to systematize and to classify it in such a manner that those looking for it can obtain it readily and in as complete a manner as possible.

The data should treat of the following:

A. Mines under exploitation, asphalt and metallic deposits, stating their location and proximity to roads and to markets.

B. Forests, where situated, their extent and character of the timber.

C. Flora, comprising within it and in a special manner, all plants textile as well as medicinal, those applicable to dyes, or which may have any proper industrial use.

D. Agronomic products, such as guanos, nitrates and all those which may be useful as fertilizers.

E. Improvements of the soil, by which term are understood all systems or methods which tend to make the soil more productive by artificial means, such as reservoirs, aqueducts, or systems of irrigation.

F. Natural forces, including in this title the rivers, water courses and falls susceptible of creating motive power.

G. Means of communication. In this group should figure lakes and navigated or navigable rivers, wagon roads, ordinary roads, and railways existing or in course of construction, with reference to the centers of production, cities, markets, ports, or frontiers.

H. Lands, with the data of the extent and location of the public vacant lands and the price of the same, and lands in general with reference to their location on the coast, plains, or mountains, and their proximity to roads or markets.

I. Industries. The data of this class should refer to the manufactories and the industrial products of each country classified according to their nature, and the districts in which the former are located, or in which they form a popular industry.

In order that the data to which the foregoing points refer may give the desired results they should be as complete as possible, and should be collected and published in a systematic manner at suitable periods.

For this purpose, the Committee believes that the Bureau of American Republics in Washington (by which heretofore information of this kind has been published, both in special books and in a monthly bulletin) should be authorized to widen the sphere of its activity and its efforts towards the attainment of the end proposed, with the co-operation of the representatives of the respective countries.