

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.

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.

It would likewise be a marked advantage as a means of practical information to establish permanent expositions to exhibit the natural and industrial products of our countries in the American nations where they do not exist; or, where they exist, to encourage them in such a way that samples of all articles which may be considered as commercial, accompanied by explanations clearly defining the means of production, cost of land, seeds, raw material and cost of labor and production, may be sent and renewed opportunely.

The information outlined above would be difficult to understand if it were to contain different systems of weights, measures or coinage. The decimal system for the former and the gold standard for the latter could serve as a basis; and such additional explanations as may be necessary with regard to similar special systems adopted by each nation would serve to make such information complete.

Based on the above considerations, the Committee on Sources of Productions and Statistics proposes that the Conference recommend to the nations represented therein:

1. That the American Governments send from time to time, at the latest every year, to the Bureau of American Republics, the most complete information possible with regard to their population and natural resources, as well as the statistical data on manufactures and commerce and on any other subject which they may deem useful for the development of their international economic relations.
2. That the said Bureau give special attention to obtaining that data, and that as soon as the same is received it be classified, put in order and published.
3. That the said Republics renew and send from time to time to the permanent expositions already established, or to be established, in the American Continent, samples of their natural and industrial products, accompanying them with all manner of information which may tend to stimulate the development of their commerce; without prejudice to the private exhibitions which all or any of the Republics may wish to establish within their own territory.
4. That data on weights and measures be given according to the decimal system, with a note of their equivalent according to the system of each nation that has not adopted the decimal system; and that likewise in order to give similarity in values, the standard gold coin of the United States be taken as a basis, stating its relation with the standard of the other nations at the average rate of exchange of each corresponding year.
5. That in order to obtain uniformity in the valuation of the international commercial goods the price fixed for the same be that which they may represent on board at the ports of destination, expressed, as already stated, in gold coin of the United States of America.

Mexico, December 14, 1901.—(Signed.) *J. Leonard.—Charles M. Pepper.—J. B. Calvo.—Ballazar Estupinian.—Jose Lopez Portillo y Rojas.*

SESSION OF DECEMBER 27, 1901.

Secretary Duret.—The report of the Committee on Sources of Production and Statistics, presented to the Conference at the session of the 18th day of the present month, is now under discussion as a whole.

The report was approved without discussion, as a whole, and later in detail, by unanimous vote of the Delegations present.

SESSION OF JANUARY 22, 1902.

Secretary Duret.—In compliance with the resolution proposed by the Secretary and approved by the Conference in to-day's session, the Honorable Delegates are advised that the reports of the Engrossing Committee on the Pan-American Railway, on the Assembling of a Customs Congress in the City of New York and on Sources of Production and on Sources of Production and Statistics are placed at their disposal.

The aforesaid report on Sources of Production and Statistics, reads as follows:

Engrossing Committee.—*Sources of Productions and Statistics.*—The undersigned Committee has the honour to submit the following text:

The Second International American Conference, in view of the project and report presented by the Committee on Statistics and Sources of Production,

RESOLVES:

First. That the American Governments send, from time to time, at the latest every year, to the Bureau of American Republics, the most complete information and statistical data which it may be possible for them to procure, with regard to their populations and natural resources, as well as the statistical data on manufactures and commerce and on any other matter which they may deem useful for the development of the economic relations of America.

Second. That the said Bureau give special attention to the obtaining of the statistical data to which the foregoing clause refers; and, as soon as the same are received, to classify, properly arrange, and publish them.

Third. That the said Republics renew and send, from time to time, to the permanent exhibitions already established or to be established on the American Continent samples of their natural and industrial products, accompanying them with such information as may tend to contribute to the development of their reciprocal commerce, without prejudice to the separate exhibitions, which all or any of the Republics may wish to establish within their own territory.

Fourth. That the data on weights and Measures be given according to the decimal system, with a statement of their equivalents, according to the system of each nation that may have a system distinct from the decimal one.

Fifth. That in order to express values, the standard gold coin of the United States of America be taken as a basis, stating its relation to the standard of other nations at the average rate of exchange of each corresponding year.

Sixth. That in order to obtain uniformity in the valuation of international commercial articles, the price fixed for the same be that which they represent on board at the ports of destination expressed in gold coin of the United States of America.

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

1. See page 73.

The resolution on Sources of Production and Statistics, expressed exactly in the same terms as the foregoing report, was signed on the 23rd day 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 and Uruguay.

NUMBER 5.

Exchange of Publications.

SESSION OF NOVEMBER 6, 1901.

Secretary Macedo.—The Delegation of Costa Rica has presented a proposition on exchange of official, scientific, literary and industrial publications. Said proposition, which the Chair has ruled to refer to the Committee on the Exercise of Liberal Professions and Literary Relations, reads thus:

The Costa Rican Delegation acting in accord with those of Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, proposes:

1st. That the exchange of official publications be established between all the American Republics.

2nd. That said exchange be extended, as far as possible, and in accordance with the private understanding between the nations so desiring it, to all other publications therein made, be they scientific, literary or industrial.

3rd. That in order to facilitate the exchange of publications to the greatest possible extent, the official correspondence between the respective countries, be declared free from postal charges, in conformity with the private conventions which may be entered into by them in that regard.—*J. B. CALVO.*

SESSION OF NOVEMBER 29, 1901.

Secretary Duret.—The report of the Committee on the Exercise of Liberal Professions and Literary Relations will now be read, on the proposition of the Delegation of Costa Rica, for the exchange of official, scientific, literary and industrial publications. Said report, which has been to-day distributed in printed form among the Delegates, reads as follows:

REPORT of the Committee on Practice of the Learned Professions and Literary Relations, on the proposition submitted by the Delegation of Costa Rica on exchange of publications.

Mr. President:

The Committee on Practice of the Learned Professions and Literary Relations, has taken into consideration the proposition submitted by the Delegation of Costa Rica, which is in accord with that of Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, and which tends to establish an exchange of official and unofficial publications between the American Republics.

The Committee considers that the purposes sought in the three Articles of the said proposition are, exceedingly useful and recommends its acceptance by the Conference, with an addition, which can be formulated in the following terms:

«Art. 4th. The Governments signing this Convention shall cause a list of the publications of all kinds which they may receive in exchange, to be opportunely published in their respective Official Gazette, in order that the public may apply at the office or library at which said lists are filed, for consultation.»

Signed: *A. Blest Gana.—M. Garcia Merou.—M. Sanchez Marmol.—M. A. Martinez, Secretary.*

SESSION OF DECEMBER 2, 1901.

In taking part in the discussion of a Pan American Bank, at this same session, His Excellency Mr. Matte alluded to the address read shortly before by His Excellency Mr. Baez, on obligatory arbitration, which was not comprised in the order of the day.

Secretary Macedo.—The report of the Committee on the Practice of the Liberal Professions and Literary Relations with respect to the proposition of the Delegation of Costa Rica, on exchange of publications, is now under discussion.

His Excellency Mr. Bermejo, Delegate from the Argentine Republic.—Mr. President: Before entering upon the examination of this matter, I desire to express my opinion respecting what my distinguished colleague the Honorable Mr. Matte has said, and to which we listened with so much interest, a moment ago in this Assembly.

He stated that we were now about to enter upon the discussion of the practical points of the Conference, and alluding to a most interesting exposition, which we have also just heard, he manifested that time was being lost in matters of little importance. I desire to reserve my opinion, declaring categorically that the point touched upon by my distinguished colleague from Paraguay is in my belief the first that this Assembly will have to consider; moreover, that if a practical and right solution is not given to that great problem, all else will have been useless, absolutely all.

I think that in expressing this opinion, I do no more than reproduce what has been set forth by the Nation itself that has brought us together in this place, and which has said to us: «In the first place the Conference will take up the question of arbitration,» which means to say that this is the great problem. Then we have not lost time in listening to the Honorable Delegate from Paraguay, neither has he lost it in causing us to listen to his interesting address.

Passing over this, Mr. President, which is an incidental point, I will enter upon an examination of the acts of the Committee.

It appears that this is one of the vital points with which the Conference has to deal. I do not see it vested with any such importance. Exchange of publications is so common a thing, so general, among American and non-American countries, that with and without that recommendation, it will be continued as before. The Argentine Republic, Sir, for the last quarter of a century has entered into Conventions of that sort with the European countries. In the year 1876, on December 2, it signed with Italy a Convention by which it was established that the two countries obligated themselves to send reciprocally official publications in matters of statistics, administration and sciences and all works issued by Academies and In-