

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-

stitutes, in every case where they were subsidized by the State.

Ten years later that Convention was amplified by Messrs. Mancini, Minister of State of Italy and del Viso, Minister of the Argentine Republic in Rome; it was then agreed that the obligation was not solely for that class of publications, but that it should also be extended to the exchange of laws, decrees, treaties and international agreements, and, in general, to all the acts of the Legislative and Executive Powers that might be promulgated in both countries, and also to the preparatory labors, reports and discussions that might have preceded them.

Argentine signed analogous compacts with Spain, on June 20, 1884; with Bolivia, on May 25, 1886, and with Chili on the 8th. of February, 1894.

So, at different periods, my country has signed compacts with other countries for the exchange of publications.

The compact in force since the year 1894 between Argentine and Chili, provides that the two countries obligate themselves to send reciprocally two copies of the official publications of each country and of the other publications that may be made in the same when they have been subsidized by the respective Governments or when such Governments may have subscribed to them. Said compact was also extended to the interchange of maps, geographical charts and plans in general, published by the respective Governments. It was added that in the libraries of both countries there should be established an especial office for the publications that might come from the other, so that the public might utilize them and follow the political and literary movements.

As will be seen, in my Nation the exchange is made and is established by means of compacts and it is not, as in the neighboring Nation, the United States, where there is a law covering the case.

The law of January 2, 1895, issued in that country, states in definite terms, that all official publications, shall be sent to the legations soliciting them, under the condition that they also, deliver to the United States the official publications of their governments. Said law is entitled: «Law to provide for the printing, binding and distribution of public documents with national funds,» and in clause 75 it states as follows: «Documents and reports may be furnished to the foreign legations accredited in the United States, at request, by specifying those which they desire to obtain, and by means of an order on the Government Printing Office emanating from the Secretary of State, provided, however, that such gratuitous distribution be made only to those legations whose Governments will furnish to those of the United States copies of their printed legislative documents which the latter may desire to obtain.»

So, the report under discussion is, in reality, comprised within the Conventions which our country has entered into and which are in force at the present time.

But I would like to see another point cleared up, and that is the following: Why has the Committee not taken into account the Convention of Brussels of March 15, 1886, that might obviate the difficulty and avoid a resolution, perhaps without practical results, when there is an agreement open to all the countries that may wish to adhere to it for the exchange of their publications?

His Excellency Mr. Blest Gana, Delegate from

Chili.—Mr. President: In arising to explain before the Conference the report made by the Committee over, which I preside, on Exchange of Publications it would be very grateful to me to limit myself simply to this subject, evidently practical, as says my Honorable colleague the Representative of the Argentine Republic; but the Honorable Mr. Bermejo has thought necessary, in taking up the project under debate, to make a few comments to exemplify his opinion on the question of arbitration, and to expound that of the Delegation of which he forms a part, with respect to certain words pronounced by my Honorable colleague Mr. Matte, in speaking on the project referring to the establishment of an International American Bank.

I do not think that our Honorable colleague Mr. Bermejo has given a correct interpretation to the words of Mr. Matte; the latter never had the intention of casting discredit upon the opinions expressed with respect to arbitration. He who now addresses you, when this matter was under discussion, manifested the great importance that it has for the Delegation of Chili; he said that he considered it, in a certain manner, as the keystone of the edifice, not the key of the edifice, as he was made to say in the minutes, that the Conference was called upon to raise. Consequently, it remains perfectly recognized that, not only the Delegation of Chili, but all of them, give to the matter of arbitration, primordial character, since the constitution of this Congress.

What my Honorable colleague Mr. Matte referred to was the opportunity of the manifestation in aid of this great principle; he believed, and he congratulated himself upon it, that we had arrived at the moment when we were to take up the practical questions, leaving for a more opportune time all that might have been and remains to be said in favor of or against arbitration. It was not, consequently, a criticism of the opinion expressed in this Conference by His Excellency Mr. Baez; it was simply an insinuation tending to manifest that the time had not yet arrived to undertake the solution of so difficult and important a problem.

This slight rectification made, I will enter upon the subject now engaging our attention. I certainly believe that the Honorable colleagues who presented the proposition upon the interchange of publications, did not understand that they were emitting a new idea, or making a discovery on the subject. The Committee has believed it expedient to propose a means for the interchange of the publications of all the countries of America, without stopping to examine what each one of them has done prior thereto.

The Honorable Delegate from Argentine who has just spoken, has made a long narration of the efforts of his Government in this regard, and I think that several of the other Delegations might do the same; they could note the efforts that have been made in this matter; for, as I have said before, no one understands that a discovery has been made; the question is simply to arrive at a practical solution upon the idea, that we ought to make a general exchange of our publications.

This, so far as it concerns the details that our Honorable colleague Mr. Bermejo has given us. Now, the report of the Committee, in its very brief phrases, amply explains the purpose of the Honorable Delegates who presented the project, a project that has been received warmly and with the greatest sym-

pathy by the Committee over which I have the honor to preside, and in which one of the Honorable Delegates from the Argentine Republic occupied an important post. His Excellency Mr. García Merou, who I am very sorry is not here now, certainly did not believe that it was an obstacle in the way of the accomplishment of the objects sought, that the Argentine Republic had made great efforts in favor of the interchange of intellectual productions. He was in accord with my Honorable colleague Mr. Sanchez Marmol and with me, in that independently of all that we had done in an isolated manner, it was necessary to enter into a general treaty subscribed by all the American countries. The Committee, considering as very acceptable the project of the Delegation of Costa Rica, believed that there might be added a slight and essentially practical suggestion, the intent of which may be seen by reading art. 4, wherein it is established that there be made public, by means of official journals, the lists of the books that are received, in order that interested parties, may consult them. In this manner it has seemed to us that a project of a simple agreement, reduced to the most practical terms possible, would attain the result that we are all seeking, to effect an exchange of our intellectual productions; without interfering with the right of each Government to adhere if so desired to the Convention of Brussels, to which His Excellency Mr. Bermejo has just alluded. The question here is to arrive at something practical; not that Nicaragua may exchange publications with Chili, nor that Peru may do so with the Central Republics; but that by means of a general compact all the Republics carry into practice this idea that may produce the most beneficial results.

His Excellency Mr. Calvo, Delegate for Costa Rica.—Mr. President: After having heard the brilliant discourse just pronounced by His Excellency Mr. Blest Gana, it would be impertinent for me to add anything to the defense that he has made of the project of Costa Rica and of the report of the Committee.

We could not entertain for a moment the idea of pretending to have made a discovery, nor anything like it. The Republic of Costa Rica maintains exchange of publications, and so do the Republics of Nicaragua, Salvador and Honduras, which supported the proposition that I presented. It was simply our desire to try to render uniform the service of exchanges, on a par with other matters, as, for example, that of Weights and Measures, which form a part of the program of the Conference, and which, judging them by the criterion with which Mr. Bermejo views the subject under discussion, would seem too insignificant and unworthy of being submitted to the consideration of the Conference.

His Excellency Mr. Bermejo.—Mr. President: I congratulate myself upon the observations that I made before to the words pronounced by His Excellency Mr. Matte, because they have given rise to the declaration that we have just heard from the lips of His Excellency Mr. Blest Gana, in that the Delegation of Chili does not disavow the importance of the question raised by my colleague the Honorable Delegate from Paraguay, except as relates to the propriety of the time of its presentation. On the other hand, Mr. President, what the Delegate from Costa Rica believes, is not precisely what I have wanted to say with respect to the importance of this project.

I have not been my intention to reproach the Committee, nor the author of the project, because they have brought into discussion a new or old subject; if I said that its importance was not so great, it was solely using a comparative term; I saw that the matter of the Pan-American Bank and the one being discussed at this moment, cannot be considered of so great transcendence as arbitration; but this does not mean to say, that in my opinion, it was not useful and proper to approve the project of convention has been proposed to us on the interchange of publications.

I was not therefore, attacking, the essential part of the report; I did simply limit its importance as compared with the subject previously touched upon arbitration, and I have closed by asking the Committee the reasons it had for not having taken as a basis the the convention of Brussels.

Should the reporting Committee accept my suggestions, we would have two ways to follow: to recommend to the Conference that the Nations herein represented shall adhere to the Convention of Brussels, or else to draw up a new Convention containing the principles set forth in the Convention above referred to.

In 1883, the basis of a Convention for the Exchange of Publications were decided upon by the Conference of Brussels. Three years later, in 1886, the Representatives of Their Majesties the Emperor of Brazil, the King of Belgium, the Queen Regent of Spain, of His Excellency the President of the United States of America, of the King of Italy, the King of Portugal, the King of Servia and the Swiss Confederation, had a meeting, and all adopted the basis of the Conference of 1883, making a provision in art. 9th to the effect that those States not forming part of said Convention, could adhere thereto. Three years after said Convention, the Government of the Argentine Republic addressed a communication to its Minister, accredited in Belgium, for the Government of that country, stating that it would adhere to said Convention.

Then, my question was: since such basis have been carefully considered, why has not the Committee followed them, and, either recommended the adhesion of the American States to that Convention, of which several American Nations form already part, among others that of Argentine, or else adopted the same bases to draw up a new convention?

If I were to decide between those two ways, I would prefer the former because of its being easier and more ample, not only as regards the American States, but also as regards all the Nations of the world.

The above was all meant in making my remarks; and I would repeat to His Excellency the Delegate from Costa Rica that my intention has not been to diminish the importance of the matter under discussion.

In order to summarize my suggestions in one single formula, and that they be immediately referred to the Committee, I submit the following proposition:

«The Conference resolves to recommend to the nations herein represented to adhere to the Convention of Brussels, of March 15th. 1886, relative to the exchange of official documents and scientific and literary publications.»

Secretary Macedo.—The Chair, based on art. 17 of the Regulations, has ruled that the proposition of His Excellency Mr. Bermejo be referred to the Com-