

A Century of Brazilian Independence



PRESIDENT EPIACIO PESSOA



JOSE BONIFACIO



By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

OBSEVANCE of the Fourth of July in celebration of the winning of American independence naturally suggests two thoughts: That the nations of Central and South America are also free and independent and that America set the example.

When the American congress adopted the Declaration of Independence it was not only announcement to the world of the independence of the original thirteen colonies, but also, a prophecy of the forthcoming independence of most of the Western Hemisphere. So there are many Independence Days on this side of the Atlantic.

Mexico celebrates September 16. It was on that day in 1810, that Miguel Hidalgo, pastor of Colores, rang his church bell and proclaimed independence to his flock. For ten years his head was to be seen on a spike on a corner of the Almondiga de Granaditas in Guanajuato and independence was not secured until 1821.

The Central American countries celebrate September 15. Guatemala declared independence on that date in 1821, the other countries following its example soon after.

In South America Venezuela deposed its royal governor April 20, 1810. July 5, 1811, Bolivar brought about a formal declaration of independence and a Republican constitutional form of government. So Venezuela observes a holiday on each of these days.

Chile celebrates September 18. In 1810 it organized a government when Napoleon tumbled Ferdinand VII off from the throne of Spain. Other South American countries celebrate Independence day on the following dates: Argentina, May 25; Bolivia, August 6; Colombia, July 30; Ecuador, August 10; Paraguay, May 14-15; Peru, July 28-30; Uruguay, February 28.

Brazil dates its independence from September 7, 1822, the date of the separation of Brazil from Portugal, though the nation did not become a republic till the revolution of 1889. That is why Brazil will celebrate a century of independence by an international exposition to be opened this coming September.

This centennial exposition will be held in Rio de Janeiro. It will open September 7, and continue until March 31, 1923. Rio de Janeiro is a city with more than a million people. It is most picturesquely situated on the Bay of Guanabara which is dotted with islands and surrounded by mountains. Its odd name—River of January—comes from the fact that January 1, 1531, Martim Affonso sailed through the gateway dominated by Sugar Loaf Peak into the almost land-locked bay and thought it was the mouth of a mighty stream.

Several years ago when the authorities decided to improve and modernize Rio de Janeiro, this plan included the condemnation and removal of nearly 600 small buildings in order to construct a wide avenue, known as Avenida Rio Branco. It extends north and south a distance of about a mile and a half, and is 110 feet wide. Rows of Pau Brazil, the species of tree from which the republic derives its name, occupy the center, the sides being used for traffic. This avenue also serves as a connecting link between sections of the bay. Along Avenida Rio Branco stand many of the capital's business structures, hotels, cafes, newspaper plants, and office buildings. At approximately the halfway point of the Avenida the electric street car system of Rio de Janeiro centers.

Avenida Rio Branco will unite the two sections of the exposition grounds. The several areas designated for exposition purposes lie along or near the water front. The site where native or Brazilian products will be exhibited is a plot of ground having water on two sides; and from this plaza a street extending along the water front to the Monroe Palace, one of the city's most beautiful and commanding structures, has been designated as the "Avenida do Nacoes" (Avenue of Nations), along which will stand the official pavilions of foreign governments. By far the largest area available for exposition purposes is that lying at the opposite end of the Avenida Rio Branco, in the vicinity of the new docks and warehouses, where large exhibits, such as machinery and locomotives, find abundant space.

In a general way, Brazil will endeavor to show the world some of the vital influences that have made the country grow and prosper. The exposition will reflect agricultural development, progress in stock-raising, fishing, and mining; the growth of mechanical industries; transportation progress on land, rivers, and along the coast; postal and telegraph services; the work of Brazilian artists and scientists; the development of commerce; and the production and conservation of foods.



DONA ISABEL



DOM PEDRO SEGUNDO

GENERAL BENJAMIN CONSTANT BOTELHO DE MAGALHAES

ding to arrange for official exhibits exemplifying American progress in science, industry and commerce. Seven government departments, interior, commerce, agriculture, postoffice, labor, war and navy and the United States shipping board, have prepared exhibits.

Twenty-five nations will participate in the celebration, which is regarded of peculiar interest to the United States because of the fact that Brazil has already participated in eight expositions in this country. Congress appropriated \$1,000,000 to defray expenses of participation by the United States in the exposition. The State department will have charge of the expenditure of this fund.

Out of it a permanent building, costing \$350,000, has been erected on the Avenue of Nations to house the exhibit to be sent by this government. After the close of the exposition this building is to be converted into a permanent embassy for this government.

The exposition building will be two stories in height and of granite construction. The upper floor will be devoted to reception rooms and the lower floor to departmental exhibits.

Preliminary to Brazil's achievement of independence is the reign of Dom John. He arrived in Brazil as prince regent in 1808. In 1815 the colony was raised by royal charter to the rank of a royal kingdom along with Portugal and Algarves. Dom John then became King John VI. When Dom John came over he brought royal treasures in the form of art and books—to save them from Napoleon. He founded an academy of art, a museum of natural history, libraries and educational institutions. He fostered industries and opened ports to trade. But he was not wise in political affairs, outlived his popularity, and returned to Portugal in 1821.

King John left as regent Dom Pedro, his son, who became the champion of the Brazilian cause against the Portuguese reactionaries who desired to reduce the kingdom to its old colonial status. The home government demanded his return. The people asked him to remain. He remained. A few months later in Sao Paulo a letter was delivered to him from the Portuguese court. In a burst of anger he tore off the Portuguese insignia, drew his sword and shouted the historic words, "Independence or Death!" The scene has been immortalized in a painting called "The Cry of Ypiranga."

Actual independence was quickly achieved by overcoming hostilities on the part of the Portuguese garrison and fleet.

The most prominent of the political events of the first reign under independence include these, according to Langworthy Marchant in the bulletin of the Pan American Union:

"First in order is the fusion of all parties into one in support of the newly installed head of the nation, Dom Pedro I, Constitutional Emperor and Perpetual Defender of Brazil; then follows the convocation of the Constituent Assembly for the purpose of establishing a constitution; later, the violent dissolution of the same assembly by the Emperor, because it proposed to curtail his privileges and establish a virtual republic; then in swift succession the arrest and banishment of the parliamentary leaders, among them the illustrious Jose Bonifacio de Andrada e Silva, who goes down in history with the title of 'Patriarch of the Independence'; the promulgation of the constitution of the Empire by Dom Pedro Primeiro—a most liberal document, notwithstanding the extraordinary circumstances in which it was promulgated; the Republican Revolution of 1824 in Pernambuco, which was repressed by Dom Pedro in a way which raised up against him the

deep resentment of the Brazilians and led to his abdication April 7, 1831.

"A curious incident in connection with the abdication of Dom Pedro Primeiro was his appointment of Jose Bonifacio, the exiled Patriarch of the Independence, as the guardian and tutor of his son, Dom Pedro Segundo, whom he intrusted at the age of five, with his baby sisters, to the loving care of the subjects with whom he had quarreled.

"Dom Pedro Segundo was proclaimed Emperor of Brazil by a joint committee of Senators and Deputies amid the joyous shouts of the whole population. A regency of three members was constituted, and Jose Bonifacio was invited to assume the personal guardianship of the Emperor."

Dom Pedro was declared to be of age at fourteen and assumed personal direction of public affairs. It was not until 1845 that all the provinces of Brazil were united in peace.

An outstanding event in the political evolution of Brazil's century of independence is the abolition of slavery, by two successive steps, under the auspices of Dona Isabel, daughter of Dom Pedro Segundo, when serving as regent of the Empire. The first decree was signed on September 28, 1871. By this decree slave mothers bore only free children. The final abolition of slavery was effected by Dona Isabel on May 13, 1888.

After the abolition of slavery, the old Conservative Party began to disintegrate very rapidly, its members going over to the Republicans.

Gen. Benjamin Constant Botelho de Magalhães, the chief exponent of the Positivistic doctrine, was president of the military college. Under his patronage a plan was worked out among the higher officers of the army, with the assistance of the chiefs of the Republican Party, for the deposition of the dynasty and the proclamation of the Republic. The revolution declared itself on the 15th of November, 1889, and a provisional government was organized under the presidency of Gen. Deodoro da Fonseca.

The last imperial cabinet, headed by the illustrious Viscount of Ouro Preto, finding itself powerless to act, simply ceased to exist with the arrest of its members. The imperial family were banished.

Says Hello Lobo, Consul General of Brazil in New York:

"You Americans are proud of having given the world a lesson in democracy which still endures, and it was indeed admirable, for it shaped the destiny of the whole continent and became the source of widespread inspiration. Jamestown, with its first elective assembly, the stirring events which took place in Independence Hall, the vote, freedom of speech, trial by jury—all the guarantees of civil and political life—for these the world is deeply indebted to you.

"Brazil did not forget this after she threw off the colonial yoke; although we were governed by a liberal King who, above the crown, placed the nation's will, your example gave us strength. As during the incumbency of Pedro I, the regency, and Pedro II this practice of government remained unchanged, so when the Republic came into existence and, thereby, the federation, our liberal tradition was already established and universally respected. Although borrowing its Constitution in 1889 from the United States, Brazil did not flatter your political wisdom by copying it entirely. With a Charter which for more than half a century had found its inspiration in the most liberal principles of the English Constitution—similarly a source of inspiration to the Constitution of the United States—Brazil, in its Republican and definitive force of government, found at last its natural pattern."

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In Fear of Trembling.

One afternoon I was taking a party of friends to a theater in town from our home in a suburb. My fiancé had kindly insisted upon my taking his commutation ticket to pay the fare. Neither of us noticed the words "Not transferable" at the top. When the conductor came in I handed him the ticket.

Fixing me with a glare, he exploded, "Are you Albert M. Curran?"

With fear and trembling I had to explain to him the whole situation, fearing all the while that he would put us all off at the next station and I had not enough money to pay our way back. Finally, most unwillingly, he permitted us to ride on the ticket.—Chicago Tribune.

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Immediately 20,000 fans rose from their seats and began hurling pop bottles and cushions at him.

"Robber! Thief!" they shouted, and chased him from the lot. That evening by the side streets he managed to reach home safely in time for his dinner. He sat down at the table, and his little wife said:

"Bill, I was at the game this afternoon, and you certainly were rotten. That man was safe by a mile."

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