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INTRODUCTION

THE opening of the Panama Canal this year means the beginning of a new commercial era for Colombia, which is one of the nations most favoured by this inter-oceanic highway. The sea journey between Buenaventura and Cartagena, which to-day occupies three months, will be reduced to four days. The opening of the Canal and the extension of the Pacific railway to the capital of the Republic will give to the country the full advantages of her geographical position, making her importance in the Pacific more than equal to that in the Caribbean Sea.

The Pacific coast of Colombia is at present but little known. The valley of the Cauca, the basin of the Atrato, the territories watered by the San Juan and the Patia will now attract the capital, which has up to the present only been invested with much hesitation.

It is not difficult to find the reason why Colombia has been less known than other South American nations: the principal reason has been the frequent change of name. The foreign capitalist was confronted with the difficulty of the name. When he wished to study the country with the idea of investing in it his own money or that of others, there was a sense of insecurity.

The disturbances in New Granada had a bad effect on the development of the United States of Colombia; and when the Republic came to assume the name of Colombia, the name caused difficulties owing to its somewhat common occurrence.

The coast is hot, and it has been assumed, therefore, in days past, that the same temperature prevails over the rest of the country. In this book the reader will learn that the regions most densely populated and offering the greatest opportunities enjoy a climate as benign to the white race as the southern countries of Europe.

As a result of the increased facilities of communication, the publication of trade returns, and the interest taken by President Reyes in making the country known, attention will now be strongly attracted by the natural resources of Colombia

The administrations that have been in power since 1903 have principally devoted themselves to keeping the peace, and their efforts have had the effect of enabling the country to settle all questions by civilised methods.

Colombia has just given an example to the world. The most difficult problem in American democracies, namely, that of securing the liberty of the voter, and the policy of electoral methods, appears to be finally settled in this country. In the elections that have just taken place, the result of which has been the election of Dr. Jose V. Concha as President, the parties interested in the struggle had for their chief object the general good of the country rather than the triumph of a particular candidate. Dr. Concha will enter on the government of the country under the best auspices. He is not an inexperienced man; he has been Minister on various occasions, and has had to settle during his term of office the most serious questions He has represented his country in the United States and in France, and has had to study during his residence in Europe the most complicated

side of Colombian finance. The nation has a right to expect years of peace and the harmonious development of all forms of culture during his administration.

It is of the greatest importance at the present time that Colombia should be better known. The economical conditions of certain industrial centres in South America, in Africa, and Australasia are not at the present moment the most satisfactory for foreign capital. Moreover, the prosperity of some of those countries has resulted in their being able to raise the capital required for their own development. Australia Argentina, and South Africa will soon be in a condition to provide for themselves. Argentina, on emerging from the present crisis, may, perhaps, be casting her eyes on other South American countries, in order to instil in them the result of her own brilliant economical development.

Colombia has so far consistently refused to advertise her natural resources, and the logical development of events has now placed this work in disinterested hands.

This volume affords the means not only of learning the past history of the country, but also of interpreting something of its future. For the capitalist, the explorer, the tourist, the commercial traveller, there is information of a practical kind which cannot fail to be useful. The Author has made use of the latest official publications and has taken advantage of valuable data contained in many works which are not easily procurable.

CANAL ZONE TREATY. While this book was passing through the Press news is to hand from Bogotá that a treaty of amity has been signed between the sister Republics of Colombia and the United States of America.

By this treaty the United States agrees, within six months of the signing thereof, to pay to Colombia a sum of £5,000,000 as compensation for the acquisition of the Panama Canal Zone; also to grant certain privileges for Colombian trade passing through the Canal, and free use for Colombian Government vessels. This not only closes the controversy on the subject, but also places the Colombian nation in a very favourable position. It will be seen on referring to the chapter on " National Finance " that another result contingent on this payment will be the allotment to the Foreign Bondholders of the Republic of the balance of the old arrears of interest, as arranged by the late Lord Avebury.

B. SANIN CANO

APPENDIX A

LIST OF STEAMSHIP LINES AND RIVER SERVICES

COLOMBIA is fairly well served by passenger and cargo steamship services.

ATLANTIC PORTS

From English Ports.—Southampton: The Royal Mail Steam Packet Company: fortnightly service passenger and cargo *via* New York and the West Indies to Puerto Colombia and Cartagena. [This company, in conjunction with the Scrutton Line, has a cargo service from various English and Continental ports to the West Indies, calling at Colombian ports when cargo offers.]

Liverpool: Leyland Line fortnightly passenger and cargo service to Puerto Colombia and Catagena. Harrison Line monthly passenger and cargo service to the same ports. Elders and Fyffes, a weekly service to Santa Marta, outward passengers only. [This line varies its English port of sailing from time to time.]

From Continental Ports—The Compagnie Générale Transatlantique have two monthly sailings from French ports for Colon and Puerto Colombia, calling at Cartagena when required.

The Compañia Transatlantica have a monthly sailing from Barcelona to the West Indies and Colombian ports.

The Hamburg-American Line, sail from Hamburg twice a month, calling at Puerto Colombia and Cartagena *via* New York.

La Veloce, Navigacione Italiana a Vapore, has a monthly sailing from Genoa to Puerto Colombia.

From the United States.—Besides the Royal Steam Packet and the Hamburg-American (European service) Lines, which call at New York on the outward and homeward voyages, the latter company's Atlas Service has a weekly sailing from New York to Puerto Colombia, calling at Cartagena on the outward and Santa Marta on the homeward voyages.

The United Fruit Company has a weekly passenger and cargo service from New York to Santa Marta, the ships calling at Jamaica, Colon, Cartagena and Puerto Colombia. It offers special facilities for the pleasure or tourist traffic

Pacific Ports

Buenaventura and Tumaco are visited fortnightly by a coasting service of the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (Royal Mail Steam Packet Company) from the port Panama. The German Kosmos liners also call at these ports, but somewhat irregularly.

River Service

Magdalena.—The "Empresa Aliadas" (an English Company) has a fleet of twenty-nine stern-wheeled steamers (total tonnage, 6,000), which sail up to La Dorada and up the Cauca, from Barranquilla. The "Empresa Hanseatica" has a fleet of seven steamers (total tonnage, 1,269), sailing from both Cartagena and Barranquilla. Both companies run weekly mail services for Bogotá and the intervening ports; and the former has an intermediate service. The other companies are the Compañia Antioqueña de Transportes, two steamers (486 tons). The Compañia de Santa Marta Wharf, with regular service between Barranquilla and Santa Marta (two steamers, 60 tons). The Compañia de Transportes de Soto (three steamers, 120 tons).

Cauca.—The Compañia de Navegación del Rio Cauca, runs a good service between Cali and Cartago, 124 miles.

San Juan.—The Anglo-Colombian Development Company runs a regular steam service from Buenaventura to San Pablo, over 350 miles.

Patia.—At Tumaco there are five small steamers which ply up the Patia and the Telembi to Barbacoas.

Zulia.—There is a good steam service of steamers from Guerto Villamizar, united to Cucuta by rail, to the Venezuelan port of Maracaibo.

Meta.—An irregular steamboat service is kept up between Ciudad Bolivar (Venezuela) and Orocué (fourteen days up stream from Ciudad Bolivar, and seven days homeward).

APPENDIX B

COLOMBIAN CURRENCY

BEFORE 1857 the unit of currency was the Peso Macuquino, a coin of fine silver, equivalent to 8 Reales or "decimos de peso." In 1857 a system based on the French decimal coinage was adopted, and provision was made for the issue of gold, silver, nickel, and bronze coins. Very little, however, was issued, the metallic coins in circulation being practically all those of foreign countries; the real currency was paper, which became greatly depreciated. In 1905 the Central Bank was established, and the redemption of the paper money was entrusted to it; this has more recently been undertaken by the Government. The ratio between the paper and the gold currency was fixed at 10,000 per cent., *i.e.*, 10,000 dollars paper = 100 dollars gold, or in other words 1 dollar paper = 1 centavos.

By the law of 12th June, 1907, the unit of a gold peso or dollar was established, equal to one-fifth of a pound sterling, of the same fineness (916), and of proportionate weight. The coins authorised are as follows—

Gold.	5 dollars	= 20s.	= $4·87
	2½ ,,	= 10s.	= 2·43
	1 dollar (100 centavos)	= 4s.	·97
Silver.	1 dollar	= 4s.	
	½ ,,	= 2s.	= 48·6 cents
	¼ ,, (peseta)	= 1s.	= 24·3 ,,
	⅛ ,, (real)	= 6d.	= 12·1 ,,
Nickel	5 dollars (paper)	= 2½d.	= 5 ,,
	2 ,, ,,	= 1d.	= 2 ,,
	1 ,, ,,	= ½d.	= 1 ,,

Legal tender.—Nickel up to the value of 2 dollars (gold) (*i.e.*, 8s).
Silver up to the value of 10 dollars (gold) (*i.e.*, 40s.).

The paper dollar notes are the general medium of currency, but in the Atrato Valley and in Cucuta and its neighbourhood silver coins predominate

APPENDIX C

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

THE French metric system is legal in all the countries of South America, and is obligatory in the Customs houses and other government offices. The most important standards are the *metre* (= 39·37 in.) and the *kilogramme* (= 2·204 lbs.). In commerce, however, especially in the interior, the older systems often survive. These are confusing as the same term may bear different values in different countries or districts. Thus the old Brazilian system was based on the Portuguese measures, which differed from the Spanish. In old Spain itself the standards were not quite uniform, *e.g.*, the yard (vara) varied between 0·847 and 0·834 of a metre. In the South American colonies this variation tended to increase; thus in Bolivia and Chile the vara = 0·836 m., in Argentina and Paraquay 0·866 m., and in Brazil 1·1110 m.

The more important of these older terms which survive in Colombia, are given below with the English equivalents.

COLOMBIA

The metric system was introduced into Colombia in 1857.

Vara (yard) = 80 cm. or 0·8 of a metre = 31·496 in.
Cuadra = 100 varas = 87·48 yards, British.
Libra = 1.102 lb. avoird.
Arroba = 25 Col. lbs. or 12½ kilos., = 27·55 lb. avoird.
Quintal = 100 Col. lbs. or 50 kilos., = 110 2o ,, ,,
Carga = 250 Col. lbs. or 125 kilos., = 275 5 ,, ,,

APPENDIX D

POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS

THE postal, telegraph and telephone services of Colombia are under the charge of the General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs, but while the telegraphic and telephonic branches are a State monopoly, the post office is not That is to say, although the existing postal organisation is at the charge of the Government the Fiscal Code (Article 517) declares that private persons may freely establish postal systems throughout the country.

From the first years of the Republic the Government organised a postal service, which had never been introduced under the Colonial regime The Department is regulated by Law 869, 1888, supplemented by the Organic Decree regarding the Postal and Telegraph Departments of 1892 and Decree 881 of 1911. The Colombian Government joined the Universal Postal Union in 1881, and subscribed to the Postal Convention of Washington, 1897, and the Universal Postal Convention of Rome, 1906. It has also become a subscriber to the Convention on Exchange of Registered and Postal Packets, but has not ratified the Conventions as to (1) exchange of letters and packets with value declared, (2) postal money orders, (3) postal recognition regarding the rate for journals and periodicals from abroad.

Article 43 of the Constitution declares—

"Communications entrusted to the Department of Telegraphs and Posts are inviolable. Letters and private papers cannot be intercepted nor entered on a register except by authority, acting under the order of a competent official, in cases, and under formalities, established by law, and with the sole object of seeking judicial evidence. The circulations of printed matter by means of the post may be controlled, but not prohibited in time of peace."

Coin, jewellery, paper money and documents of public import may not be sent in unregistered letters. If the postal authorities have reason to suppose that a closed letter contains

prohibited articles, they may write thereon the words "Atencion, poste restante," in which case the person to whom it is addressed may be directed to open the packet in the presence of officials, who, however, only satisfy themselves as to the presence or not of such prohibited articles, and in the event of these being found, they have the power to demand double the duty chargeable.

The fees payable on "Valores Declarados" are 3 per cent. on notes and gold, and 2 per cent., plus 4 centimes per 5 grammes on silver.

Senders of franked letters or parcels, desiring that these should be delivered only into the hands of the addressee or a formally authorised person, may ensure this by marking the front of the envelope clearly with the words "Poste Restante." It naturally follows that persons having their letters addressed "Poste Restante" must provide satisfactory evidence of identity.

There are over 500 post offices in the Republic.

Tariffs

Inland Mails

Ordinary Letters.—2 centavos (gold) for every 15 grammes, or fraction of 15 grammes. So a letter weighing less than 15 grammes pays 2 centavos; one weighing 48 grammes pays 8 centavos.

Post Cards.—1 centavo single; 2 centavos reply.

Printed Matter.—½ centavo per package up to 50 grammes, and a ½ centavo more for any fraction of this weight. Newspapers not older than six months, free.

Business Papers.—2 centavos up to 100 grammes, and 1 centavo more for every 100 grammes or fraction thereof.

Registration Fee.—10 centavos, plus the ordinary postal fee.

Urban Service.—Letters posted and to be delivered within an urban district, ½ centavo per 15 grammes.

Letters marked "Urgente" for special delivery, 4 centavos.

Sample Post.—1 centavo for every 100 grammes, or fraction of 100 grammes.

Foreign Mails

Letters.—5 centavos for every 15 grammes, or for every amount exceeding the multiples of 15.

Post Cards.—2 centavo, single 4 centavos, double.

Newspapers.—2 centavos for every 50 grammes or fraction thereof

Samples.—2 centavos for the first 100 grammes, and above that weight, 1 centavo for every 50 grammes.

TELEGRAPHS

Telegraphs are a State monopoly. Private persons may not establish telegraphs without Government permission.

There are 524 telegraph offices and 11,248 miles of telegraph lines within the Republic.

There is a branch cable between Panama and Buenaventura.

The charge for internal messages are 2 centavos gold per word for the first ten words, and 3 centavos gold for every subsequent word.

TELEPHONES

In Bogotá the telephone service is leased by the Government to an English company, who besides service to houses have a number of public call offices in the city. The charge is 5 centavos per call.

There are telephone services in Barranquilla, Cartagena, Medellin and other towns.

APPENDIX E

DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR SERVICES

Colombian Representatives in the United States of America

ENVOY Extraordinary and Minister Plen.: Julio Betancourt. First Sec. of Legation: Roberto Mac Douall.

Also Consular officials at Baltimore, Boston, Mobile, New York, New Orleans, Norfolk, Porto Rico, Philadelphia, St. Louis, San Francisco, Los Angeles.

United States Representatives in Colombia

Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plen.: James T. DuBois, Bogotá. Sec. of Legation: L Harrison.

Also Consular officials at Barranquilla (Isaac A. Manning), Bogotá, Cartagena, Cali, Medellin, Santa Marta.

Colombian Representatives in the United Kingdom

Minister and Envoy: Pedro María Carreño. Secretary of Legation: Saturnino Restrepo, 25 Avenue Road, London, N.W.

Consul-General and Fiscal Agent in London: Francisco Restrepo Plata, Sicilian Avenue, W.C.

Also Consular officials at Liverpool, Southampton, Cardiff, Glasgow, Dundee, Birmingham, Nottingham.

British Representatives in Colombia

Envoy Extr., Minister Plen. and Consul-General: Percy C. Wyndham, Bogotá. Vice-Consul: D. Young.

Also consular officers at Barranquilla, Cartagena, Honda, Medellin, Santa Marta, Buenaventura and Tumaco.

APPENDIX F

DENOUNCEMENT AND ALLOTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS.

LAW NO. 56, APRIL 29, 1905, CONCERNING THE ADJUDICATION OF PUBLIC LANDS.

THE National Constituent and Legislative Assembly of Colombia decrees:

Article 1. Every person occupying Government lands, who builds a residence thereon and cultivates said lands, acquires the right of ownership to the cultivated portion thereof and to additional land equal in extent to the cultivated portion.

Art. 2. Any person who, as a colonist or agriculturist, thinks he has any right of ownership to the cultivated land, either because of having artificial pasturage, coffee plantations, cacao plantations, wheat fields, cornfields, potatoes, etc., should apply to the respective survey and land office, filing a report signed by three witnesses, giving the name by which said lands or parts thereof are known, the province, municipality, township wherein the adjoining lands are situated, and other particulars, giving a clear idea of the same. The depositions shall be made in the presence of the municipal judge in whose jurisdiction the lands are situated, and in the presence of the municipal attorney, who shall be summoned for that purpose, and in the absence of the latter said deposition shall be made in the presence of the proper mayor.

In this statement the witnesses should declare the fact as known to them that the applicant has established his residence and has cultivated lands, stating also the character of the crops. The statement made by the witnesses, together with the petition making the denouncement, shall be addressed to the municipal board of the proper district in whose jurisdiction the denounced lands are situated. On the receipt of said petition the survey of the land by an expert surveyor shall be ordered, and the latter, together with the denouncing party, shall be responsible for the accuracy of the survey.

The surveyor shall fix the boundaries by natural limits or by magnetic directions and exact distances, and shall confine himself to the scientific prescriptions, and upon drawing the plans he shall be guided by established rules. After the survey has been made, and it has been proved that the colonists are such that they have cultivated fields, the municipal board shall decree the provisional adjudication and shall send the proceedings to the Department of Public Works for final adjudication, which shall be granted if there is no legal reason to prevent the same The formal delivery shall be made in accordance with the provisions now in force relating to public lands and in such way as not to injure the rights of third parties.

Art. 3. The title of ownership of the adjudication of public lands shall be issued by the Department of Public Works, in a record book duly paged, in which there shall be entered the extent and situation of the adjudicated land and the name, residence, and nationality of the person acquiring it. Said title should be recorded in the registration office of the circuit where the said lands are located.

Art 4. The procedure for the adjudication, delivery, and registration of public lands by the sale thereof shall be made in the same manner as that employed in the case of colonists and agriculturists, and the witnesses shall declare that the lands are not for any public use, that they are public lands, and are situated at a distance exceeding 1 myriameter from existing railways or those in construction, which statement shall, in addition, be verified at the Department of Public Works.

Art. 5. In order to verify at any time the accuracy of the adjudicated lands by concessions made to companies or by sales to private persons, the longitude and latitude shall be determined in the proper plans with reference to the meridian which passes through the Astronomical Observatory at Bogotá.

Art. 6 In drawing all plans of public lands, whether by sale or adjudication, the surveyor shall only estimate in areas whole numbers of hectares on the scale of one-thousandth or on a smaller one.

Art. 7 Public lands which have not been cultivated since the promulgation of Law No. 48 of 1882 shall again become

ipso facto the property of the nation, and after it is proved that they are not cultivated they may be denounced. Likewise, in future, one-half at least of the extent of all public lands adjudicated to colonists, companies, or agriculturists shall be cultivated, since without such requisite the right of the person to whom they have been adjudicated shall expire within the term fixed in the title of said adjudication.

Art. 8. Agriculturists or colonists may freely sell the plantations, buildings, and seed plots established on public lands, the buyer thus acquiring the right of ownership of the seller over the cultivated lands.

Art. 9. The title of ownership of adjudicated public lands is the certificate issued by the Minister of Public Works stating the final adjudication, and which is also recorded in the registry office to which the respective municipality in which the lands are situated belongs.

Art. 10. The possession of public lands is the holding of the same by an individual with the intention of becoming owner thereof, either for himself or in representation of third parties, by virtue of acts of ownership, such as forming seed plots, constructing buildings, and the cultivation of the land in general.

Art. 11 No adjudication of public lands shall exceed 1,000 hectares, the Nation reserving to itself alternate areas equivalent to those adjudicated.

Art. 12. The survey and other expenses incidental to all adjudications shall be for account of the respective concessionaires and grantees.

Art. 13. All adjudications of public lands now in force by any title whatever and whose lands have not been cultivated shall pay a tax equal to that which obtains on rural lands, and the municipal boards of the respective districts in which the said public lands are situated are authorized to collect said tax, irrespective of the provisions of Article 7 concerning public lands adjudicated subsequent to the promulgation of Law 48 of 1882.

Art 14. Colonists or agriculturists desiring to obtain adjacent lands in adjudication may do so by purchase, in accordance with the provisions of the present law

Art. 15. On and after the date of the passage of

the present law the issue of territorial bonds is absolutely prohibited.

Art. 16. The titles or bonds of public lands, in circulation, must be recorded in the Department of Public Works within the term of one year from the promulgation of this law. In order to render it easier for the holders to make this registration, it shall be sufficient for them to exhibit their bonds to the Municipal Treasurer of the respective district in which they reside, and said official shall forward a statement to the aforesaid department containing the following:

(1) The name, domicile, and nationality of the holder.
(2) The kind of bond, stating the date of issuance and its origin
(3) The amount of the bond.

Foreign holders of territorial bonds shall show their bonds to the respective consul, and the latter to said department.

Art 17. The final titles of adjudication of public lands made either in exchange for titles or to agriculturists or colonists must be recorded or registered immediately at the Department of Public Works in order that they may be legally valid afterwards. This registration must be made within two years from the date of the promulgation of this law.

In order to avoid difficulties in making this registration the same shall be made before the municipal treasurers of the respective districts where the adjudicated lands are situated.

Art. 18. The municipalities shall enjoy the right of usufruct of the public lands of their respective jurisdiction, with the previous consent of the National Government, but this shall not prevent their alienation and adjudication, which, having been made, the right of usufruct shall cease.

Art. 19. The ownership of all public lands is in the Nation, because of having recovered the absolute ownership over those which belonged to the former States, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2, Article 202, of the National Constitution.

Art. 20. The titles of concession of public lands issued in favour of said former States are hereby declared void, in accordance with the law of the 19th of May, 1865, and Article 870 of the Fiscal Code with the exception of those which were alienated before the issuance of the Constitution of 1886.

Art. 21. The adjudications of public lands in exchange for titles already delivered in favour of companies or contractors of certain public works, as a subsidy to the latter, shall not be considered as final except in so far as the Government shall declare that the contractors or concessionaires have complied with the obligations by virtue of which the concession had been made.

Art. 22. The Department of Public Works shall make a statement of said adjudications, which shall be published in the *Diario Oficial*.

Art. 23 In future no adjudications shall be made in exchange of titles of the origin referred to in Article 21 unless they have been duly recorded.

Art 24. The free exploitation of National Forests is hereby prohibited. The Executive Power is authorized to make rules and regulations for the carrying out of such exploitation.

Art. 25. The Government is hereby authorized to create agricultural boards or committees, the powers of which shall be determined by Executive decrees.

Art. 26. All bonds paid shall be perforated, and in addition shall be made void by a communication signed by the Secretary of the Department of Public Works. The omission of these requisites renders the chief of the respective division responsible for the value represented by the bond and subjects him to a criminal action for an attempt of a breach of trust

Art 27. Lands adjudicated to colonists and which have not been cultivated owing to the last war will not be subject to the provisions of Articles 7 and 13 of this law.

Given at Bogotá on the 29th of April, 1905.

The President (of the National Constituent and Legislative Assembly),

ENRIQUE RESTREPO GARCÍA.

The Secretary,

DANIEL RUBIO PARIS.

Executive Power, Bogotá, April 29, 1095.

Let it be published and duly enforced.

[L S.] R. REYES.

The Secretary of Public Works,

MODESTO GARCÉS

DECREE No. 1113 OF SEPTEMBER 19, 1905, RELATING TO LAW 56 OF THE PRESENT YEAR, CONCERNING ADJUDICATIONS OF PUBLIC LANDS.

The President of the Republic of Colombia, in the exercise of his legal powers, and

Whereas, by virtue of Law No. 56 of the current year some of the provisions of the Fiscal Code, of the subsequent laws, and of the executive decrees relating to the adjudication, sale, and lease of public lands have been modified, and, consequently the development of the former and the modification and regulation of the latter, decrees:

Art. 1. The Nation transfers the ownership of public lands as follows: By adjudication to agriculturists; by assignment to companies for the development of works of public utility: to new settlements and to the settlers of those already established, in exchange for bonds or titles of concession, and to private parties by purchase for money.

Art. 2. The Nation recognises in favour of agriculturists the right of ownership referred to in Article 1 of Law No. 56 of the present year, said agriculturists being obliged, however, to obtain the traditional legal title by virtue of the final adjudication and the actual delivery decreed after the proper proceedings.

Art. 3. Plantations, by virtue of which the right to the acknowledgment of ownership by the Government is acquired, must have been established previous to the application for adjudication, in accordance with the provisions of the laws and decrees concerning the matter.

Paragraph. The plantations established subsequent to the adjudications for any other reason, when the lands again become the property of the Nation, entitle the persons who have established them only to an indemnization in conformity with the civil laws relating to the interpretation and rescission of contracts.

Art. 4. When, contiguous to cultivated public lands, there are no uncultivated lands of sufficient area to complete the equivalent to which the agriculturists are entitled to, only the existing lands shall be adjudicated, and in case there are several adjacent colonists, said uncultivated lands shall be

distributed in proportion to the extent of their cultivated lands without reserving any portions thereof for the Nation.

Art. 5. If the uncultivated lands which, in accordance with Article 11 of Law 56 already quoted, should be reserved for the Nation adjacent to those adjudicated to the agriculturists are not sufficient to complete an area equivalent to that adjudicated, only the excess shall be reserved to the Nation.

Art. 6. The grantees and the present owners or holders of any title of public lands must grant in favour of the new colonists or denouncers the right of way they may seek through such lands, provided the interested parties should justify or prove such need before the municipal board.

Art. 7. The municipal boards shall cause to be recorded in the registry of real property of the respective district the public lands which have not been cultivated, the adjudications of which are previous or subsequent to the time when Law 48 of 1882 became effective; shall cause said lands to be appraised, and shall impose on them the proper tax, this to be done in accordance with Article 13 of Law 56 of 1905.

Art. 8 Whenever the municipal board has knowledge that there are, within its municipal territory, uncultivated public lands which have been adjudicated after Law 48 of 1882 became operative, it shall cause an ocular inspection to be made, and when such fact is verified the board shall communicate it to the Department of Public Works.

Art. 9. The provisions of Article 7 of Law 56 already cited and the provisions of the preceding article are applicable to public lands which have been adjudicated after the passage of the aforesaid Law 48, should the cultivated portion not bear the proportion prescribed in Article 12 of the Decree No. 832 of 1884.

Art. 10. By virtue of the right of usufruct, enjoyed by the municipalities in accordance with the law of the public lands not yet adjudicated, the respective municipalities may administer them by leasing them or permitting private parties to use them, but of an area not exceeding 1,000 hectares nor for a period of time greater than five years.

Art. 11. From the date on which this decree becomes operative, all the licences and authorizations gratuitously conferred by the authorities for the use of public lands that

have not been adjudicated shall be void. Consequently, the municipalities shall recover the lands referred to in this Article.

Art. 12. In the ten years prescribed by Article 7 of Law 48 of 1882 for establishing in the adjudicated lands some agricultural or cattle industry, the time of the disturbance of the public peace during the last war shall not be counted.

Art. 13. Persons to whom public lands have been adjudicated after Law 29 of April 19, 1873, became operative, where there have already been discovered coal mines or deposits, shall communicate this fact to the Department of Public Works within six months counting from the publication of this decree, with the understanding that if they fail to comply with this requisite they shall not have the right of priority in the contracts for the exploitation of said mines or deposits as the Government should make

Art. 14. The prohibition contained in Article 11 of Law 56 of 1905, as a special and subsequent provision, prevails over all contrary provisions.

PROCEDURE

Art. 15. In the sworn statements of witnesses in which the facts referred to in Articles 2 and 4 of Law 56, to which this decree refers, are proved, the witnesses shall state the reason of their allegations, in the presence of the municipal attorney.

Art. 16. The respective municipal solicitors shall give their opinion in all cases, in which the municipal councils shall present a resolution in the proceedings relating to the adjudication of public lands.

Art. 17. The denouncer of public lands shall be jointly liable with the surveyor with regard to the accuracy of the survey and other requisites required by the laws and the decrees in force concerning the making of the plans, said responsibility consisting of the obligation to pay to the nation the value of the excess land or the damages caused by the mistake, as well as the expenses incurred in the correction of the same.

Paragraph. This provision does not divest the denouncer of the rights granted him to the excess land by Article 940 of the Fiscal Code.

Art. 18. The surveyor shall mark in the plan, and it shall also be stated in the certificate of adjudication, the place through which the necessary road leading to the adjacent lands shall be established, whether the latter are private or public lands, and which lack direct communication with public highways, taking into consideration above all the greatest convenience and the shortest distance.

Art 19. All kinds of adjudications, whether they be greater or less than 100 hectares, require, in order to be granted, the drawing of the plan in accordance with the provisions of the law in force.

Art. 20. The oppositions made to the applications for adjudication by occupants of public lands without final title shall be decided by the respective municipal council simultaneously with the issuance of the decision by virtue of which they are provisionally adjudicated. The application made by persons who show titles to property granted before the denouncement shall be decided upon by the judicial power, to whom shall be sent the proceedings and to whom the interested parties shall apply.

Art. 21. The evidence which the denouncers shall produce, according to the provision of Article 7 of Law 56 of the present year, relating to the failure to cultivate the public lands adjudicated after Law 48 of 1882, shall consist of the actual personal inspection by the mayor, accompanied by the municipal attorney and a neighbour, who shall be a landowner in good standing, at the expense of the interested party.

Art. 22. The denouncers of public lands, in exchange for territorial bonds or titles of the origin referred to in Article 21 of Law 56, and of those lands which for any reason have not been registered in accordance with said law in the Department of Public Works, and whose applications are being acted upon, may exchange the same for others of different origin already registered, before any decision is reached concerning the final adjudication.

Art. 23. The certificate which constitutes the title of ownership, referred to in Article 9 of Law 56 of the current year, shall be issued by the Department of Public Works as soon as the latter receives the proceedings from the respective municipality, together with all the documents relating to the ownership to be finally filed.

Art. 24. From the decisions reached by the municipal councils, in the proceedings concerning the adjudication of public lands, there shall be no appeal except from those regarding temporary adjudications, of which the Department of Public Works shall have cognizance.

Paragraph In the administrative proceedings relating to adjudication of public lands, applications for repeal shall only be allowed once.

Art. 25. The decisions of the officials referred to in Article 5 of Law 61 of 1874 may be brought on appeal before the respective provincial alcalde or prefect.

Art. 26. When the denounced public lands are situated in two or more municipalities the interested party may apply for the adjudication of the same to any of the municipal councils they may select.

Art 27 The notifications of the administrative decisions in matters concerning public lands shall be personally made to the interested party or parties whenever they apply to receive the same, or through a decree in case they should not so apply, which dercee shall be posted twenty-four working hours on the day following the one on which said notifications have been issued

Art. 28. After a period of five days shall have elapsed from the date of the notification the same shall be considered finally settled.

ADJUDICATIONS BY PURCHASE

Art. 29. The purchase of public lands referred to in Article 4 of the aforesaid Law 56 shall be made either in exchange for titles of concession already issued or by purchase in national money.

Art 30. In denouncing public lands for the purpose of obtaining them by purchase, the denouncer shall state in his application the amount he offers to pay for them, which shall not be less than 50 cents gold per hectare for lands suitable only for grazing stock, and $1 gold for cultivated lands, and shall deposit 10 per cent. of the total price as a guarantee of the fulfilment of his pledge.

Art 31. Once the denouncement has been accepted by the Municipal Council, the latter shall direct that the same be made known by means of decrees, which shall not be less

than three in number, and which shall be posted in the most public places of the municipality, stating therein the boundaries of the land and the price offered, in order that, during said term, those desirous of making better bids may do so.

Art. 32. After thirty days shall have elapsed without anyone having made a better bid, and the decrees having been added to the proceedings with the respective notice of having been posted and taken down, the procedure shall go on without further requisite.

Art. 33. If while the said decrees are posted there should appear persons who offer to increase the price of the first bid, and the denouncer should agree to make his bid equal to the highest made, the proceedings shall be continued in favour of the latter bidder.

Art. 34. If the denouncer should not desire to make his bid equal to the one already made, and the highest bidder should deposit in the municipal treasury 10 per cent. of the bid made, the proceedings in favour of the latter shall be continued, adding to the said proceedings the receipt of the deposit.

Art 35. Before reaching a decision concerning the final adjudication in favour of the purchaser, the latter shall show the receipt of having deposited in the National Treasury the sum offered as value of the lands which shall be adjudicated to him

SALES OF MORE THAN 1,000 HECTARES

Art. 36. Public lands exceeding 1,000 hectares in area may be sold by the Government, provided the bids for their acquisition are made directly to the Department of Public Works, accompanied by the vouchers required for the adjudication of public lands in accordance with Law 56 of the present year, stating the sum offered for the same.

Art 37. The application, made in accordance with the foregoing article, shall serve as a basis for making the bids, and shall be made in accordance with the rules established by the Fiscal Code concerning the sale of Government property.

ADJUDICATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHING OF NEW TOWNS, AND MADE TO NEW SETTLERS

Art. 38. The adjudication of public lands intended for the

establishment of new towns and to new settlers shall be made after the National Government has made the grant of the land necessary to the respective municipalities, in conformity with the following articles :

Art. 39. The grant shall be applied for the respective municipal councils, stating the number of hectares required for the establishment of a new town, or for the new settlers, with proofs as to the quality of the public lands in question

Art. 40 In view of the application and of the proofs attached thereto the National Government shall decide whether the grants of public lands for the purpose indicated shall be made or not.

Art 41 After the grant has been made, the respective municipal councils shall proceed to make the distribution and adjudication to the settlers, using for that purpose the provisions of Law 14 of 1870 and those of Decree No. 520 of 1878 with regard to the duties of the surveyor and of the agrarian committees.

Art. 42. It is understood that the provisions of the foregoing articles shall not impair the rights which settlers already established on said lands have to solicit said adjudications

Art. 43. Public lands containing heron roosts or sleeping places for herons shall not in future be adjudicated, being held to be leased to private parties who may so desire to lease them.

Registration and Annulment of Titles

Art. 48. The municipal treasurer, to whom the bonds or titles of final adjudication are presented for registration, shall write a note thereon, under his signature, stating therein the number and date of the entry of the book wherein the registration was made in the Department of Public Works, as soon as he receives the data which should be sent him from said Department, together with the proper voucher that the said registration has been made, holding the titles while this is being done.

Art 49. The municipal treasurers shall forward to the Department of Public Works the statements of the bonds or titles of grants and the titles of adjudication presented to them for registration, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 16 and 17 of the aforesaid Law 56, and shall leave

a copy of said statement in a book which shall be kept for this purpose.

Art. 50 The provisions of the articles above quoted do not prevent the holders of bonds or titles of adjudication from presenting them directly to the Department of Public Works in order that they may be registered in that Department.

Art. 51. The Department of Public Works shall, for the purpose of registering the titles or bonds of grants of public lands in the order of dates, series, and origin, retain them the time necessary to verify the greater number of one kind, with the details relating thereto, and record them in one single proceeding, issuing a provisional receipt to the parties presenting them.

Art. 52. The inscription in the registration book shall be made in an inverted order to that of the respective date of the issue of the bonds or titles of grants.

Art 53 If, on making the registration in the Department of Public Works of the bonds or titles of grant or adjudication presented for that purpose, it should be found that they belong to the kind referred to in Article 21 of Law 56, before cited, the registration shall not be made until it shall be proved by the interested parties or until official proof is furnished that the contractors or grantees have complied with the obligations by virtue of which the title was issued in their favour or the adjudication was made to them.

Art 54. No title or voucher of adjudication of public lands issued after Law 48 of 1882 became effective, and which has been issued for a period greater than ten years, shall be registered in the Department of Public Works until the interested party proves that the adjudicated land has been cultivated to the extent prescribed by Article 12 of Decree No. 832 of 1884.

Art 55 The titles or bonds of concession of public lands which, at the time of registration in the Department of Public Works, should prove to be counterfeit or to have been taken from proceedings already concluded shall be perforated and annulled, the owner thereof reserving to himself the right to proceed against the person who may have sold or indorsed them.

Art. 56. The titles or bonds of concession of public lands which, notwithstanding that they have been registered, are

counterfeit or have been stolen, shall be declared void by the Department of Public Works and a description of them shall be published in the *Diario Oficial* (Official Gazette).

Art. 57. The titles or bonds of grants of public lands which after the term fixed by Article 16 of the said Law 56 shall have expired have not been registered in the Department of Public Works are declared void, and shall not therefore have any value whatever thereafter.

Art. 58. The bonds or titles of grants of public lands which are the property of private persons deposited for any person in the Department of Public Works shall be registered after being duly examined and verified for the purpose of proving their authenticity

Paragraph. In case it should appear that said bonds or titles are counterfeited or stolen the proper officials shall proceed to void and perforate the same, the receipt issued for them being thereby cancelled and annulled.

Art. 59 If a deposit has been made to guarantee the fulfilment of the obligations contracted in favour of the nation by virtue of contracts entered into with the Government, and it should appear that the titles or bonds of the grant are counterfeited or stolen, after the annulment of the same, a new guarantee shall be required of the person contracting the obligation.

Art. 60. For the annulment and perforation of the titles which shall be carried out in conformity with the foregoing articles, the proceedings prescribed in Article 26 of Law 56 of the current year shall be followed.

Art. 61 Decree No. 832 of 1884, and circular No. 94 of the 15th October, 1884, are hereby amended, in so far as they conflict with the present decree, as well as all other similarly conflicting provisions

Given in Fusagasugá, on the 19th September, 1905.

Let it be published and enforced.

R. REYES.

The Secretary of Public Works,

MODESTO GARCÉS.

Work and Wages

Although the population of Colombia is undoubtedly very scanty in proportion to the area of the country, there are certain portions of the interior of the Republic where the number of inhabitants per square kilometre is almost comparable to that of Belgium or Holland. There are therefore regions practically uninhabited and uncultivated, and other regions in which the population sometimes surpasses the productive powers of the soil. Hence, where the population is numerous, employers find all the hands they require and wages are low. This is the case in the temperate and healthy districts, such as the famous Valley of Tensa, the Valley of Pereira, and in high and fertile districts, like the Plain of Bogotá, and in the Valley of the Rio Negro in Antioquia. In these districts the wages of the ordinary workman do not exceed 35 to 40 centavos (gold). In the departments of Boyacá and Cundinamarca, with their great haciendas, with their system of co-operative subtenancies (somewhat on the metayer system), the workman receives a wage apparently smaller, because the balance is given in the form of his board and reduced rent for his holding. Elsewhere the workman contracts to work for the proprietor of the estate on certain days in the year at a low wage, in consideration of the part of the estate which he occupies and exploits on his own account.

In tropical and therefore less populous districts, where the agricultural and pastoral industries require more labour, the unskilled workman receives higher pay, especially if this district is unhealthy. Here the rate rises to 50 or 60 centavos In the Antioquia mines the rates are still higher, the minimum being 1 peso (gold) per day. Wages are smaller in remote country districts than in the neighbourhood of the large towns, and smaller in the neighbourhood of the towns than in the towns themselves. An unskilled workman earns in Bogotá 60-70 centavos for labour which in the country is worth less. On the railways the navvy earns 70-80 centavos in tropical, and 50-60 centavos in colder districts.

Generally speaking the supply of labour exceeds the demand in Colombia. Within the same territory there are migrations from district to district in search of work. There is from Antioquia a constant stream of emigration to Cauca, Tolima,

and Cundinamarca. Through Valley of Tensa in Boyacá, large bodies regularly emigrate to populate less favoured districts.

This excess of supply over demand, coupled with the fact of large tracts of uncultivated land, accounts for the lack of European emigration to Colombia. The European peasant is on the whole better paid than the Colombian; but, on the other hand, his standard of living is higher. As a result, European emigration will not spontaneously flow towards Colombia, the European workman cannot compete in point of wages with the Colombian.

Therefore to promote emigration to Colombia, the Government must pass special laws to counterbalance or abolish the present conditions. Failing this, private enterprise with the object of increasing the value of the land, will at no very remote period, deal with the diversion towards Colombia of European emigration This will be a harder task than may appear, since the European workman has of late years shown less disposition to emigrate to N. and S. America than was formerly the case.

APPENDIX G

Conventions and Treaties

Between United States of America and Colombia

Amity, Commerce and Navigation.—Made with New Granada in 1846 ; revised by Colombia and the United States in 1909. One of the articles of this Convention provides for the neutrality of the Isthmus of Panama.

Consular Convention, 4 May, 1850.

Extradition, 7 May, 1888 ; Amended 1889, 1890 ; Proclaimed 6 Feb., 1891.

Postal and Telegraph Convention, 18 Jan., 1889.

Panama Ship Canal, 22 Jan., 1903, and 9 Jan., 1909. The treaty provided for : The renunciation by Colombia of rights and contracts relating to construction , Grant of use of ports to U.S ; Assignment by Republic of Panama to Colombia of the right to receive payment from the United States ; Freedom of passage for Colombian mails ; Colombian products to enter Canal Zone at same duty as those of the United States ; Payment of tenth annual instalments to Colombia of $250,000 as from 1908.

The 1909 Treaty (between the United States, Colombia and Panama) did not become operative owing to the refusal of Colombia to accept some of the conditions.

Between Colombia and the United Kingdom

Amity, Commerce and Navigation, 16 Feb , 1866. This treaty contains clauses dealing with the Consular service

Law, Foreigners and Nationalization, 15 Nov., 1888.

Postal and Telegraph Convention, 1881, 1885, 1891 and 15 June, 1897.

Parcel Post, 1887, and 15 Sept., 1899.

Extradition, 27 Oct., 1888

Convention on Industrial Property.

Arbitration, 30 Dec., 1908.

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