

**REPORTS OF SAMUEL B. RUGGLES:
DELEGATE TO THE INTERNATIONAL
STATISTICAL CONGRESS AT BERLIN,
ON THE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED
STATES. AND ON A UNIFORM SYSTEM
OF WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND COINS**

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Reports of Samuel B. Ruggles: Delegate to the International Statistical Congress at Berlin, on the Resources of the United States. And on a Uniform System of Weights, Measures and Coins by Various

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OF

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DELEGATE TO THE

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RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES,

AND ON A

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BY J. B. CUSHMAN, CLERK.

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1864.

STATE OF NEW YORK.

IN ASSEMBLY.

ALBANY, April 3, 1864.

On motion of Mr. A. X. PARKER,

Resolved, That ten copies of the report of the Hon. SAMUEL B. RUGGLES to the International Statistical Congress, at Berlin, for 1863, and ten copies of the Report to the Secretary of State, in respect to uniform weights, measures and coins, be procured by the clerk for each member, officer and reporter of the Assembly.

By order,

J. B. CUSHMAN, Clerk

REPORT
TO THE
INTERNATIONAL STATISTICAL CONGRESS,
AT BERLIN.
BY SAMUEL B. RUGGLES,
OF THE
RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES;
WITH
THE ACCOMPANYING COMMUNICATION TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.
SEPTEMBER 14, 1888.

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R E P O R T .

DEPARTMENT OF STATE, }
WASHINGTON, *January 18, 1864.* }

I transmit to the Senate, in answer to their resolution of the 14th instant, a copy of the report on the resources of the United States, presented to the International Statistical Congress at Berlin, in September last, by the Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles, together with a copy of his letter to the Department of State, transmitting the report.

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

The SENATE of the United States.

Mr. Ruggles to Mr. Seward.

BERLIN, *September 14, 1863.*

SIR: In pursuance of your instructions accompanying the appointment of the undersigned as representative of the United States of America at the International Statistical Congress at Berlin, in September instant, he embarked for Europe in the first German steamer after receiving his commission, and reached Berlin, after some detention on the Atlantic, on the afternoon of the 6th of September. No business of importance had been transacted in the Congress up to that time, except the presentation of the credentials of the delegates.

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On the 7th of September, the credentials of the undersigned were presented and approved, at which time representatives from the following countries, stated in alphabetical order, had been duly admitted, viz.

The United States of America; Anhalt-Dessau; Austria; Baden; Bavaria; Belgium; the Danubian Provinces; Denmark; France; Frankfort; Great Britain; Hamburg; Hanover; Holland; Holstein; Hesse-Cassel; Hesse-Darmstadt; Italy; Lubeck; Mecklenburg-Schwerin; Norway; Oldenburg; Portugal; Prussia; Russia; Saxe-Coburg; Saxe-Weimar; Saxony; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; and Wirtemberg.

The representatives of most of the nations above specified made reports to the Congress on the statistics of their respective countries, which will be duly published in German and in French, in the official proceedings or "*Compte Rendu*" of the Congress. In general, the proceedings and debates were in the German language, but to some extent in French and English.

Through some accidental and unintentional omission, none of the States of South America, or of Central America, sent delegates to the Congress, although Brazil, especially, had been represented in preceding sessions of the Congress. The name of the undersigned was erroneously entered in the printed and published lists as delegate from "*North America*," but on his application the error will be corrected in the official report of the proceedings.

On Friday, the 11th of September, being the sixth day of the session, a statistical report was presented to the Congress by the undersigned, in behalf of the United States of America, of which a copy is herewith transmitted.

It is proper to state that the composition and character of the Congress, as shown by its proceedings and published reports at the preceding sessions, were merely "statistical," and in no respect economical or political, rendering it proper and necessary

to refrain in the report from any speculations or deductions as to the practical use or employment of the resources to be statistically exhibited, or any political discussion of the character, conduct or possible result of the pending insurrection against the Government of the American Union; but rather to present the cardinal elements of its material strength and resources, past and present, in such arithmetical and statistical form as should furnish, of itself, to the Congress, and the countries therein represented, sufficient elements for any necessary conclusions.

Again, it was desirable and necessary, for the purpose of securing the publication and circulation, to any considerable extent, of such a statement, to condense the facts as far as practicable, to select only the most prominent, and to seek, by a well-defined outline, to present the subject clearly and distinctly.

Keeping these considerations in view, the report was therefore confined mainly to the four cardinal elements of our national strength, embraced under the heads—Territory; Population; Agricultural Production; and Precious Metals. It is not denied that other branches, though comparatively less important, might have been added; but under the circumstances, those presented were thought sufficient for the purpose.

In view of the insurrection still affecting the industry and products of a certain portion of the Union, and rendering it difficult to state or estimate their present value with any statistical accuracy, they were not embraced in the report to the present Congress, under the belief that the full restoration of tranquillity before the next session, in 1865, will then enable the representative of the United States to fully supply the deficiency.

The present session has been signalized by the adoption of important resolutions in respect to a uniform system of weights,

measures and coins, for the use of the civilized world, and materially affecting the United States of America. A large Commission, embracing representatives of high attainments, from fourteen different nations and countries, was instituted at the Congress of 1860, held in London, to report a system for consideration at the present session. The undersigned, on taking his seat in the body, was invited, in behalf of the United States, to confer and unite with that Commission in its proposed and forthcoming report. A draft of that report had been printed, presenting, in review, the different nations which had adopted, or were disposed to adopt, the metric system of weights and measures, but in which it was stated that "the *Confederate States* of America have expressed a desire to introduce the metric system of weights and measures." The undersigned, on perceiving the statement, protested at once against its propriety, or its admission into the report, on the ground that the "Confederate States," so called, had no separate, national, lawful existence, but still formed integral portions of the United States of America. The objection was acquiesced in, and the words in question were modified so as to read, "Some of the States of America have expressed a desire," &c., &c. The statement is known to be true in respect to some of the States of South America, and possibly as to some of the States of our American Union.

The proposition presented by that Commission to the Congress in respect to weights, measures and coins, looking to an eventual change in the weight of the British sovereign and of the American dollar to reduce them to even multiples of the franc, with the modifications which these propositions underwent in the Congress, are of so much importance and gravity that the undersigned will require some little time for reporting them fully, with the necessary accompanying documents, to the Government of the United States. He will