

Affonso Augusto Moreira Penna



Biography

Lawyer, born in the city of Santa Bárbara, state of Minas Gerais, on November 30, 1847, graduated on the Faculdade de Direito de São Paulo on 1870, becoming a doctor in the following year. During the Empire, besides being provincial deputy for the Partido Liberal (Liberal Political Party), and general deputy (1878-1889), he held the offices of minister of War (1882), minister of Agriculture, Trade and Public Constructions (1883-1884), and minister of Justice (1885). On 1888, he joined the committee of organization of the Brazilian Civil Code. Senator to the Constituinte Mineira of 1891, in the same year it became state senator, but renounced the office. He was the founder and the first director of the Faculdade de Direito de Minas Gerais (Law school of Minas Gerais) (1892). He govern Minas Gerais (1892-1894) and presided the Banco da República do Brasil (Brazilian Republic Bank) (1895-1898), currently Banco do Brasil. Once more state senator in Minas Gerais (1899-1900), and president of the Deliberative Council of Belo Horizonte (1900-1902), office currently equivalent to mayor. He became vice-president of the Republic in the term of Rodrigues Alves replacing Francisco Silviano de Almeida Brandão, that died before he could be vested. By means of direct election, he became president of the Republic on November 15, 1906. He died in Rio de Janeiro, on June 14, 1909, without completing its presidential mandate.

Presidential Period

The government of Affonso Penna put resistance to the continuity of the policy of appreciation of coffee established in the Convênio de Taubaté. Against this resistance of the federal government and of other states to the completion of the items of this agreement, the state government of São Paulo, betting in the strategy of coffee appreciation, acquired loans in banks and foreign exporting houses, and made so that the Union became the guarantor of a new loan, making it viable the financing of purchase of eight million sacks of coffee, almost half of the total of the Brazilian harvest. In light of the discontentment of the other Brazilian producers, as the ones in Minas Gerais and Bahia, Affonso Penna established that the Banco do Brasil (Bank of Brazil) would acquire the harvest of the coffee producers, being this the first state intervention for the defense of a product. The implementation of the policy of appreciation of the coffee value helped pay the external commitments and to obtain a great profit, revealing the success of the first governmental initiative in commerce.

Afonso Pena gave continuity to the program initiated by its predecessor, Rodrigues Alves, the reconstruction of the railways and harbors, and implemented the Army reorganization, under the supervision of the minister of War, general Hermes da Fonseca. During its government, he also made available the necessary resources, on 1907, so that Cândido Rondon performed the connection of Rio de Janeiro to Amazônia by telegraphic wire.

Source: National Archives – Information Center of the Collection of Presidents of the Republic.

Summary

Fifth period of the Republican Government – 11.15.1906 to 11.15.1910

1st phase: 11.15.1906 to 06.14.1909

Birth: Santa Bárbara – MG, on 11.30.1847

Death: Rio de Janeiro (DF) – RJ, on 06.14.1909

Career: Lawyer

Government Period: 11.15.1906 to 06.14.1909 (02a07m2d)

Age when started the government: 59 years

Type of election: direct

Votes received: 288.285 (two hundred and eighty eight thousand and two hundred and eighty five)

He took office: On 11.15.1906, in solemn session of the National Congress, presided by Sir. Rui Barbosa.