

Francisco de Paula Rodrigues Alves



Biography

Lawyer, born in the city of Guaratinguetá , state of São Paulo, on July 7, 1848. Graduated as bachelor in Literature and Languages in the Faculdade de Direito de São Paulo (1870). Acting Attorney in Guaratinguetá – SP (1870); he became Custodian of Minor, Orphans and Interdicts (1871-1872) when, then, he became municipal judge and 1st Deputy of the Law Judge of the District of Guaratinguetá (1873-1874). He accomplished two terms as provincial deputy by the Partido Conservador (1872-1875 and 1878-1879). In this same political party he was elected general deputy (1885-1887) and president of the province of São Paulo (1887-1888). He was councilor of the Empire on 1888.

He became general deputy by the Partido Conservador (1888-1889) and deputy to the National Constituent Assembly (1890-1891). He was minister of Finance in the governments of presidents Floriano Peixoto (1891-1892) and Prudente de Morais (1895-1896). He became senator by the Partido Republicano Paulista (1893-1894, 1897-1900 and 1916-1918). President of São Paulo (1900-1902). By means of direct election, he took office in the presidency of the Republic on November 15, 1902. After the presidential period, he governed São Paulo (1912-1916). Elected for the second time, president of the Republic on 1918, he did not take office because of health problems. He died in Rio de Janeiro, on January 16, 1919.

Presidential Period

Rodrigues Alves centered his attentions in the program of urban improvement and sanitation of the capital city of the Republic. The engineer Pereira Passos was appointed as mayor of the city of Rio de Janeiro, with full powers for the implementation of improvement reforms. The harbor was extended, the old blocks with its cortiços were demolished and the residents transferred to the suburbs, giving space for the enlargement of the streets and the building of new avenues, among them the avenida Central, currently avenida Rio Branco. The modernization of the city also comprehended a regulation of the new public policies, as the prohibition of street vendors, the selling of lottery tickets in the streets and interior of streetcars, fireworks, balloons and bonfires. Its government had the money, since it coincides with the peak of the rubber boom in Brazil, the country had 97% of the world production.

The scientist and physician Oswaldo Cruz, that up until now, was the head of the Instituto Manguinhos, was appointed general Director of Public Health Care, implementing the combat against plagues, like bubonic plague and yellow fever. In 1904, the obligatoriness of vaccination against smallpox disease took the carioca population to the streets in protest, on February 10, movement that came to be known as Vaccine Revolt.

Rodrigues Alves faced the first general strike in the capital city of the Republic on August 15, 1903, initiated by the workers of the textile industry that claimed raise in salaries and daily work hours of eight hours for all categories of workers. In its government it was signed the Treaty of Petrópolis, whose negotiations were conducted by the Baron of Rio Branco, defining the limits between Brazil and Bolivia, giving to Brazil the ownership of Acre. Bolivia received a compensation in the value of two million pound sterling, besides the construction of the Madeira-Mamoré Railway. In the last year of government, despite the opposition of Rodrigues Alves, it was completed the Convênio de Taubaté, with the support of the National Congress. Signed by the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais and Rio de Janeiro, the Convênio established the cambial stabilization and the protection to the producers of coffee, being the responsibility of the central government to buy the external financial resources and store it to sell it in an appropriate moment.

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

Summary

Fourth period of the Republican Government – 11.15.1902 to 11.15.1906

Birth: Guaratinguetá – SP, on 07.07.1848

Death: Rio de Janeiro – RJ, on 01.15.1919

Career: Lawyer

Government Period: 11.15.1902 to 11.15.1906 (04a)

Age when started the government: 54 years

Type of election: direct

Votes received: 592.039 (five hundred and ninety two thousand and thirty nine)

He took office: on November 15, 1902, in solemn session of the National Congress, headed by Sir. José Gomes Pinheiro Machado