

Nilo Procópio Peçanha



Biography

He was a Lawyer, born in the city of Campos, state of Rio de Janeiro, on October 2, 1867. He graduated from Law School in Recife (1887). He was Founder and president of the Republican Club of Campos and of the Fluminense Republican Party - PRF, in Campos-RJ (1888). He was a congressman at the National Constitutional Assembly (1890-1891), a congressman from the Fluminense Republican Party (1891-1903) and a senator (1903). He resigned as a senator to assume the presidency of the state of Rio de Janeiro (1903-1906). He was one of the signatories of the Taubaté-SP Agreement, as president of Rio de Janeiro, as well as the presidents of São Paulo and Minas Gerais (1906). He was elected Vice-President of the Republic in 1906, and with the death of Afonso Pena, assumed the presidency on June 14, 1909. In 1912, he was elected senator from Rio de Janeiro, the state that elected him president once again between 1914 and 1917. He was the Minister of Foreign Affairs (1917) during the Delfim Moreira administration and in 1921, ran for the presidency of the Republic for the Republican Reaction Party, which was won by Artur Bernardes. Senator from Rio de Janeiro (1918-1920). He died in Rio de Janeiro, on March 31, 1924.

Presidential Period

During Nilo Peçanha's short term, the electoral campaign for the Presidency of the republic became a close race between candidates Hermes da Fonseca, the nephew of former president Field Marshal Deodoro da Fonseca and Afonso Pena's Minister of War, and Rui Barbosa. The population of São Paulo and Minas Gerais, who for years has been united around the same candidate, conducting the "coffee and milk policy", were on opposite sides this time. Hermes da Fonseca was supported by Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul and by the Armed Forces, while Rui Barbosa received support from São Paulo and Bahia. Rui Barbosa's campaign was known as "civilest campaign", in other words, as a civilian opposition to the military candidacy of Hermes da Fonseca. The state of São Paulo provided the financial resources necessary for Rui Barbosa's campaign, which traveled the country seek for popular support, a fact that had been unheard of up to that point in the Brazilian republican life.

President Nilo Peçanha faced the aggravation of the conflicts between the oligarchies of São Paulo and Minas Gerais resulting from the civilest campaign, by intervening in certain states to ensure the taking of office of the presidents allied to the federal government. One of the

interventions occurred in the state of Amazonas with the intent of supporting president Antônio Bittencourt, who had civilest tendencies, who had been removed from office by his vice-president Sá Peixoto, with the support of Pinheiro Machado. This episode led to definitive rupture between Nilo Peçanha and the influent leader of the Conservative Republican Party, Pinheiro Machado.

Among his achievements are: the push for technical-professional teaching, the reorganization of the Ministry of Agriculture and the creation of the Indian Protection Service, directed by Lieutenant-Colonel Cândido Rondon. In 1910, the population of Brazil was of 23,151,669 inhabitants, 67% of which lived in rural areas.

Source: National Archive – Information Center of Presidential Collections.

Summary

Fifth Period of the Republican Government - 11.15.1906 to 11.15.1910

2nd phase: 06.14.1909 to 11.15.1910

- | Born: Campos - RJ, on 10.02.1867
- | Died: Rio de Janeiro (DF) - RJ, on 03.31.1924
- | Profession: Lawyer
- | In office: 06.14.1909 to 15.11.1910 (01y05m01d)
- | Age when assuming office: 42 years old
- | Type of election: direct
- | Votes received: 272,529 as Vice-President
- | Inauguration: Nilo Peçanha's inauguration record cannot be found in the Inauguration Book, since it was a replacement at the end of a term
- | Observation: The inauguration ceremony occurred during a period of national mourning for the death of the President, perhaps that explains why there was no inauguration ceremony