

Prudente José de Morais e Barros



Biography

Lawyer, born in the city of Itu, state of São Paulo, on October 4, 1841. Graduated as bachelor in the Faculdade de Direito de São Paulo (1863). Assemblyman and president of the city council of Piracicaba (1865-1868). Provincial Deputy in São Paulo by the Partido Liberal (Liberal Party) – PL (1868-1869). He associated with the Partido Republicano Paulista (Paulista Republican Party) – PRP (1876). Provincial deputy by the PRP (1878-1879/1881-1882). General Deputy in São Paulo by the Partido Republicano (Republican Party) (1885-1886). Provincial Deputy (1888-1889). After joining the junta governativa of São Paulo, established with proclamation of the Republic, he assumed the government of that state (1889-1890). As senator of São Paulo, he acted as president of the National Constituent Assembly (1890-1891) and the vice-presidency of the Senate (1891). He disputed in the same year the presidency of the Republic with Deodoro da Fonseca, losing the indirect election by a small number of votes. He became president of the Senate until 1894, replacing Floriano Peixoto, until then officer of the House, when he became president of the Republic. By means of a direct election, he became the president of the Republic, on November 15, 1894. Headed the Partido Republicano Dissidente de São Paulo (Dissident Republican Party of São Paulo) (1901). He died in the city of Piracicaba, state of São Paulo, on December 13, 1902.

Presidential Period

As first civil president of the Republic, its election marked the end of the presence of the militaries in the government of the country, inaugurating the representation of the paulista and agricultural oligarchies, above all the coffee oligarchies. Just in the economical crisis, as consequence of the speculations, Prudente de Morais faced an intense political opposition, headed by florianistas (Floriano Peixoto's) militaries and by the group of Jacobins that fought for the unification of the republican power; by the Partido Monarquista (Monarchist Party) that was trying to reorganize; and by groups of the middle section of the population that was unhappy with the government of a civil president.

Prudente de Morais took a leave from office on November, 1896, because of a disease, worsening the political crisis, that started to be confronted by the vice-president Manuel Vitorino. He resumed the office in the new government's headquarters, the Catete Palace, on March 4, 1897.

In the previous year, the conflict in Canudos hatched, in the interior of Bahia, motivated by the issue of the cut of trees and headed by Antônio Vicente Mendes Maciel, known as Antônio Conselheiro, that preaching an ascetic life, attracted almost thirty thousand followers. The revolt was seen as a monarchic reaction, despite its messianic and regional character. The defeat of the troops of Bahia resulted in the president of the state to request for federal troops. The failure of two expeditions and the death of its republican commanders created a wave of protests and violence in the city of Rio de Janeiro. The Florianistas arranged in uniformed militias and assassinated some cariocas monarchists (monarchists of the Rio de Janeiro). Only with the destruction of the village of Canudos, that happened on 1897, by a federal military expedition formed by eight thousand, and after the assassination attempt of Prudente de Moraes, performed by a victorious soldier of Canudos, the institutional-political crisis ended, with the reestablishment of the republican order. Source: National Archives – Information Center of the Collection of Presidents of the Republic.

Summary

Second period of the Republican Government – 11.15.1894 to 11.15.1898

Birth: Itu – SP, on 10.04.1841

Death: Piracicaba – SP, on 12.03.1902

Career: Lawyer

Government Period: 11.15.1894 to 11.15.1898 (04a)

Age when started the government: 53 years

Type of election: direct

Votes received: 276.583 (two hundred and seventy six thousand and five hundred and eighty three)

He took office: on November 15, 1894, in solemn session of the National Congress, headed by Sir. Ubaldino do

Amaral Fontoura.

He took leave: On 11.10.1896 to 03.03.1897, because of disease, period when he took the Vice-presidency.