

CHOROGRAPHY OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEÇANHA

HISTORICAL NOTE

The peopling of the city of Peçanha dates from the passed century, and its beginning one cannot precise, by lack of data; but that becomes more evident by the records of baptism that here were celebrated in the year of 1760. At this time Peçanha was occupied almost only by the gentile. It belonged to the Prince Town [Vila do Príncipe], nowadays Serro. Looking for gold touched these whereabouts João Peçanha, from where originated the name that until today is conserved; due to the exploration o this metal, flowed in much people with the aim to enriching themselves.

By existing vestiges until now, one note that were extracted all the easiest gold that there was, by backward processes, being that only in the surface of the earth were worked, and alongside the streams where there it was in abundance. The invasion of the gentile in the old settlement of Peçanha caused, following the traditions, serious damages to the development of the place, by the attacks that they did against people and property, so resulting in the abandoning of its first inhabitants, till that the Government of the ancient Empire took the proposal to posting quartered effective to guarantee the population, and it was then by this mean that one reached, in principle, to chase them away o the village, to avoid damages to the farming, and to guarantee the life of the untamed settlers of uncultivated forests.

Later, by the years 1871-1872, by order of the Government, it was founded the village of Poaia, with the aim to taming them, having the Government spent with such a service not less than eighty "contos de reis" [one million of reis] and little or nothing achieving, because the measles invaded the village, and did great mortality, so that it became very reduced the tribe, from which might remain as much as sixty "botocudos", already well domesticated, in the district of Figueira.

In the year of 1822, the village of Peçanha was elevated to Parish, by a Permit of this same date, continuing to belong to the municipality of Serro.

On 7th of January of 1881 took place the installation of Sweet River Town [Vila do Rio Doce], created by the law # 2.132, of 25th of October of 1875, letting by this fact to belonging to the municipality of Serro.

By the law # 2.766, of 13th of September of 1881, was the Town [Vila] elevated to City [Cidade], and remained without special forum, incorporated to the County [Comarca] of Itamarandiba during some years; afterwards it was annexed to the one of Saint Michael [São Miguel] of Guanhães, and, lately, having being created the County [Comarca] of Peçanha, this one was installed on the 20th of March of 1892.

The first District Judge [Juiz de Direito] nominated for this County [Comarca] was Dr. Edgardo Carlos da Cunha Pereira, who in it exercised the judicature during four years, with the general applause of its jurisdictioned, having remained engraved in the memory of its inhabitants the remembrance of whom knew to accomplish with rectitude and justice the spinous mission of judge, and, as citizen, the one of having captivated, by his suave behavior, friendship and sympathy of all.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

The Municipality of Peçanha is found situated in the East of the State of Minas, and limits itself with the following municipalities: with the one of Caratinga, at South, by the Sweet River [Rio Doce]; with the one of Saint Michael [São Miguel] of Guanhães, at South, by the Suaçuí Pequeno and Tronqueiras River; with Serro, at West; with the ones of São João Batista, Minas Novas e Teófilo Ottoni, at North; and with the State of The Holy Spirit [Espírito Santo] by the Aimorés Mountains, in the left side of the Sweet River [Rio Doce], at East.

The Municipality measures, from East to West, one letting the part that one can't well calculate, from Figueira till the boundaries of the State of the Holy Spirit [Espírito Santo], already not inhabited, an extension of 30 leagues of 6 kilometers, and, from North to South, 15 leagues.

It is part of the 6th Electoral Circle of the State, and contains a electorate of more than 3 thousand electors; and its population, in the year of 1890, was already superior to thirty thousand inhabitants; the allotment of jurors is composed of more than three hundred qualified.

Its territory is mountainous and bathed at South of the city by the Suaçuí Pequeno and at North by the Suaçuí Grande; besides these rivers there are others, as: the Jacuri Rivero, that bathes the district of Jacuri; o São Felix River, in the district of Santa Maria de São Felix; and other ones, like the Matinada, in the districts of Santo Antônio da Coluna and Jacuri; the São Nicolau Grande, in the district of São João Evangelista; the Sujo, that cuts the districts of the City and of São Pedro do Suaçuí; the Bugre, in the district of Figueira; the São José, the Ramalhete, and the Onça, in the district of the City.

The Suaçuí Grande is the biggest of all, and furnishes a variety of fish.

It is extremely fertile the soil of the municipality of Peçanha, where produces every sort o plantation of farming. Its climate is suave and healthy. The agriculture produces coffee, corn, beans, rice, sugar cane, tobacco, manioc, potatoes, yams and fruit.

The harvest of coffee of the municipality is already calculated in more than sixty thousand “arrobas” [15 kilograms].

The lands of the municipality are excellent for the culture of cotton.

There are beautiful waterfalls that are useful for to moving factories of fabric and any other ones. In the municipality there are still great extensions of unoccupied lands of premium quality, as: in the left side of the Suaçuí Grande, the woods of Poaia and, in the right side of the same river, in the district of Figueira, and also the unexplored lands, that stay in the left side o the Sweet River [Rio Doce], below of Figueira, where runs the Laranjeiras River, that are still inhabited by the savage.

In its woods one find great viriety of medicinal plants, as the Poaia, the Copaibeira, the Jaracatiáthe a Quinathe a Carqueja, and many other ones that it would be long to enumerate; as also excellent wood for construction and joinery; as also dying trees.

The sauba ant is a calamity, maybe the greater that counts the agriculture of the municipality, mainly in the localities.

The greatest breeding of the municipality is the swine, of which all the farmers treat in general, with much profit, having also many breeders of bovine e equine cattle. Many farmers take care of apiculture, but in a manner that it impedes them of reaching the advantageous aims that it provides to others that look after it, with the due attention; nevertheless they take advantage exporting hundreds of “arrobas” [15 kilograms] of wax, in candles.

If it was not the lack de method and care, much bigger result they could obtain of such an important breeding, and well acclimated in this place.

This municipality is admittedly auriferous, and with fundament one might assert that it disposes of great reserves of minerals already not explored.

INDUSTRY

It possesses a great number of sugar-mills moved by water and animals, where is produced “cachaça” [sugar-cane brandy], sugar and “rapaduras” [blocks of raw brown sugar]; there are two iron factories, whose minerals are inexhaustible and of first order, some mills to sawing woods, and two or three mills to pounding coffee, of little importance.

Its commerce of exportation already is of some importance, con-

sisting in the production of lard and coffee, that one exports to Ouro Preto, from where one imports salt, and the foreign goods, from the market-place of Rio de Janeiro. It is not served by railways and neither by telegraphic lines.

The nearest railroad is the Bahia and Minas, in Teófilo Ottoni, at the distance of twenty eight to thirty leagues, by a new road, that the government of Affonso Penna ordered the opening, with which was made the expense of a hundred and twelve "contos de reis", not being properly finished, what is for one to lament.

Peçanha is distant from Belo Horizonte more or less sixty leagues.

The municipal budget amounts to twenty five "contos de reis", more or less.

The city is situated in the headwaters of the stream denominated Emparedado, and is, by the South, surrounded by a mountain that stays a lot superior to it; at East stays the "Alto do Cruzeiro", that is the best promenade, so we may call it, deservedly, as the "Corcovado" of Peçanha; the fount of potable water that supplies the city is not voluminous, but the water is the best one that one may desire. The municipality is composed of eight important districts that are: the one of the City, that is the most prosperous, after the one of São João Evangelista, the one of Santa Maria de São Felix, the one of São Pedro do Suaçuí, the one of Santo Antônio da Coluna, the one of São José do Jacuri, the one of Santa Teresa do Bonito, and the one of Figueira.

In the municipality there are many villages, as: in the district of the City, the flourishing villages of Sant'Anna do Onça and Ramallete; in the district of São João Evangelista, the flourishing village of Pinotos, or São Sebastião da Aldeia; in the District of Santa Maria de São Felix, the flourishing villages of São Sebastião dos Cristais and of Maranhão.

The city contains more than four hundred houses, being a great number of them of good construction, two churches, House of the Council, Jail. House of Instruction; has 5 state primary schools, that are regularly frequented; the city was not aligned and by that stayed highly without taste.

In its whereabouts, one count an elevated number of rural houses, with plantation of coffee, fruit and vegetables.

In the municipality there exist about thirty state primary schools and many municipal ones.

In the County there are three non-formed lawyers, number that inferior to the one created by the law.

In the city there is no doctor and it counts only on pharmacy.

In the district of Figueira there is a white clay, that must give a good dishware, having we already seen some rough vases, but which attest the good quality of the row material.

Peçanha, 22nd of February of 1899.

The Fiscal Procurator of the Council of Peçanha, Jeronymo Electo de Souza.