# The republican aparatus in the configuration and reconfiguration of the public space: comparative analysis of the four rail roads of the West São Paulo (Brazil)

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*ABSTRACT*

This paper analyzes the formation and transformation of public spaces of 29 cities in the west part of São Paulo state inserted in the four rail roads that strived the occupation of this part of the territory, the Railroads:- *Alta Paulista, Alta Sorocabana*, *Alta Araraquarense* and *Noroeste* . The analysis is mainly focused on public spaces inserted in the area of the original property of the cities and the temporal arch from the 1 st Republic (1889-1930) until the fifties, when the option for roads was clear. The aim of this study was to evaluate the designs set on squares and gardens before and after the insertion of the railroad as well as the role of the state and private companies on the propagation of a vegetal repertory, which is introduced in these spaces and urban afforest. New models of gardens, seedlings, buildings, equipments, techniques and professionals from abroad and from the capital of the state that operated in the countryside emerged from the railroads. Therefore, this research explores the technical and scientific republican apparatus that supported configuration and reconfiguration of the public space in cities of the west part of São Paulo state. Research institutions like the Agronomic Engineering Courses of *Escola Politécnica de São Paulo* (Polytechnic School of São Paulo) ; *Escola Agrícola Prática Luiz de Queiroz de Piracicaba (*Agricultural School of Practice Luiz de Queiroz*)*; *the Horto Botânico de São Paulo* (Botanical Garden of São Paulo) and the *Instituto Agronômico de Campinas (*Agronomic Institute of Campinas) which with private companies and entrepreneurs will be able to provide through the railroads the representative republican apparatus needed to the transformation of the public space. The study is part of the FAPESP Theme Project titled "Erudite and technical knowledge in configuration and reconfiguration of urban space –San Paulo State, XIX and XX centuries".

## INTRODUCTION

The results of this research are inserted in the *sub-theme 3,* titled "Theoretical and technical knowledge in configuration and reconfiguration of cities founded with the opening of pioneer areas of the West of the State of São Paulo" , under the FAPESP Thematic Project titled "Erudite knowledge and technical knowledge in the configuration and reconfiguration of urban space. São Paulo State, XIX and XX Centuries". The research involves three Brazilian universities and an Italian one: *Universidade de Campinas* (UNICAMP), *Universidade Estadual Paulista* (UNESP), *Pontifícia*

*Universidade Católica de Campinas* (Puccamp) and the Universitàt IUAV di Venezia. The research is funded by the Research Support Foundation of São Paulo (FAPESP), it started in 2006 and it is forecasted to end in 2010. In the specific case of the group of professors at Unesp responsible for sub-theme *3*, the research is still being developed following two parallel movements which supply the specific research.

1st movement - to survey the processes of configuration and re-configuration of cities located in areas called "pioneer areas" (MOMBEIG, 1984), opened with the implantation of the four railway lines (fig.1 ) which run parallel to each other in the west of the state of Sao Paulo (*Araraquarense, Paulista, Noroeste* and *Sorocabana*).

2nd movement - to survey select characters, manuals, travel guides, institutions and firms, to supply the specific research collated from the material surveyed.

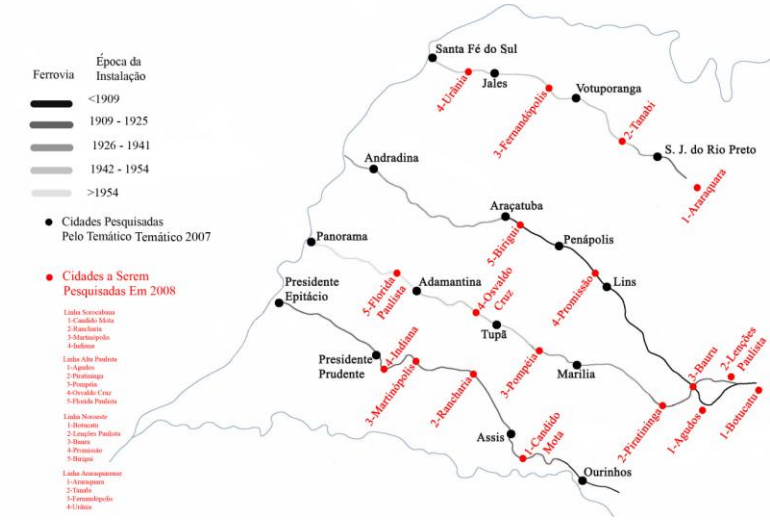



*Figure 1 Railways in the West Paulista: Araraquarense, Noroeste, Paulista and Sorocabana (from top to bottom) with the cities which were studied.*

The research involved in shaping and reshaping of public space, under my responsibility, conducted a survey and reconstitution of the design of 69 squares present in the original heritage of 29 cities (Diehl, 2009, Gasparotto, 2007; Lanca, 2009, Machado, 2007, 2009 SANTOS, 2007; Simabuko, 2007, 2009; Zechinato, 2008). From this material were done specific researches to evaluate the scientific and technical apparatus that supported these changes, as well as the vegetable repertoire.

The purpose of this investigation was to evaluate the designs that are shaped in squares and gardens before and after the introduction of the railroad, and the role of the state and private enterprise in the disclosure of a vegetal repertoire that was introduced in these areas and in urban forestry .

Based on the survey results, the paper demonstrates how there was a Republican apparatus that helped support the adjustment and transformation of public space in these studied cities over the four railway sidings. Ultimately it demonstrates, sustained in the

survey results, how all these squares are a heritage of a landscape that reflects a period of history in São Paulo and therefore should be preserved.

## SQUARES AND GARDENS OF WEST PAULISTA

The systematic survey of the 69 squares inserted in the original patrimony of the 29 studied cities, has brought some important data. Of the 29 studied cities, 19 were founded in the period of the 1st Republic (1889 to 1930). The majority, in its initial path of the urban areas, defined for the formation of future squares. All the squares were built after the arrival of the railway. Of regular format, the squares were a result of the design of grid which ranged from 80x80 meters to 107x107 m. In some cases there was the junction of one or more grid cells, a third part of this either with irregular formats at the crossing of routes in diagonal or even in the light of particularity of the urban layout proposed.

The total of the 69 studied squares ratified partial results of the research wich has already been submitted to other Congresses, where it is found that the West Paulista is possessor of a landscape patrimony which is surprising by its singularity. This singularity is shown by some points. Most cities, even if they have not been originated from a religious patrimony, have one square dedicated to the Church Matrix (fig. 2 to 4) and another one to the railway station. The majority has a regular grid format corresponding to the urban fabric in which they are inserted and a symmetrical design generally composed of radial lines toward the center of the square which will hold a water fountain, a "chafariz" or a bandstand. The latter, an earmarking equipment which is characteristic of the squares of the interior. Around the central square or along the axis between the square of the matrix and the square of the rail, there are usually a concentration of significant buildings such as the Church Matrix (when not occupying the central portion of square), hotels, banks, the City Council and the City Hall, the theater, Forum, the Municipal Elementary School and the cinema. The surroundings of the square, with its generally eclética architecture, constitute the assembly of buildings and at the same time gives it a unit. The scenario is also completed through the vegetation regulated by technical topiary (species such as buchinhos), in addition to other shrub species (such as *cicas*, *agaves*), palms (as the *cariotas*), conifers, *tuias* and trees. In the collected material there are few references on the tree species planted in the squares and gardens, and also few references about urban afforestation, which led to the research on specific verification, including, whether there was a relationship between species used in the capital and in the cities of the interior of the state.

## THE STATE AND THE PRIVATE INITIATIVE IN DISSEMINATING A VEGETABLE REPERTOIRE.

At the end of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century two schools and two institutions and two schools involving agronomic and botanical researching were created in the capital of the State of São Paulo and in its interior cities: the *Comissão Geográfica e Geológica* (Geographical and Geological Commission - 1886), which in 1897, would have its Botanical Garden located in the Sierra *da Cantareira* in the city of São Paulo; the *Imperial Estação Agronômica* (Agronomic Imperial Station - 1887), which in 1892 would become a state station with the name of *Instituto Agronômico do Estado (*Agronomic Institute of the State) and located in the city of Campinas; the Polytechnic School of São Paulo (1893), which had a course for training agronomic engineers (1893-1910) with

their respective field of experimental crops; and the Agricultural School of Practice *Luiz de Queiroz* (1901), located in the city of Piracicaba. In addition to these two institutions and two schools, in 1905 the Botanical Garden was created in the backyard of the Museum of *Ipiranga* (today *Paulista* Museum), inaugurated in 1890.

All these institutions had their technical staff formed mostly by foreign professionals, who have brought with them their experience and knowledge to assist in the inventory, cataloguing, selection, acclimation, reproduction and dissemination of a vegetable repertoire.

**"Inventory and cataloguing"** because at the end of the 19th century, they did not know exactly the potential of the Brazilian vegetation. It is true that since the 18th century several foreign travelers had already been performing surveys in the Brazilian flora and fauna, but a systemic study aiming at the selection and reproduction of species with economic and public health purposes in large scale, had not yet been carried out.

**"Acclimation"** , because some species of economic purposes, such as it was the case of the australian *eucalyptus* tree and others of ornamental purposes, as the european *plátano* were widely used since the end of the 20th century in rural and urban environment, respectively. The *eucalyptus* was introduced as a replacement of wood of native forest, which was being decimated at frightening proportions with the expansion of the railway lines in direction of the West Paulista. As for the use of *plátano*, it was because it had been the most widely used tree in the urban afforestation in the transformations of public space of the city of Paris, conducted by Adolphe Alphand during the administration of Eugènne Baron Haussmann, and it was chosen not only to be used in the city of São Paulo, but also in various other cities of the interior. It was used for urban afforestation aiming at both aesthetic and public health purposes.

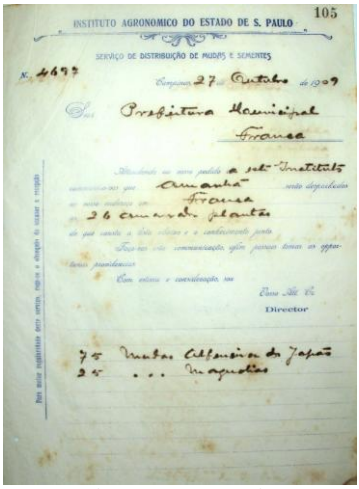
**"Selection, reproduction and dissemination**" of species because if in a first moment there were alien species which were satisfactorily acclimated to be used in the markets, in the gardens and urban afforestation, in a second moment, there was the selection of native Brazilian species that could replace the exotic implanted. This is not only due to problems of climate and control of pests (as it was the case of *plátano*), but also by demand of the recovery of Brazilian indigenous flora, and more precisely the Paulista flora.

In this sense, important work had been conducted by researchers located in the institutions cited above and who were subject to the newly created Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works. The study called "*Notas sobre as plantas exóticas introduzidas no estado de São Paulo"*(Notes on exotic plants introduced in the state of São Paulo), published in 1906 by the Swedish naturalist Albert Löfgren, director of Cantareira Botanical Garden, shows the efforts of the State in the dissemination of a vegetable repertoire and, at the same time, the election of the city as the empirical field of study of the species which would be better recommended for the urban green areas. The objective of the publication, according to Löfgren, was "to provide orientation to the solicitors of seedlings, who had little or no knowledge on the material received". In 1911, an extensive work of identification of vegetation of the city of São Paulo and its surroundings was published by professor of botany, the Swiss Alfred Usteri, of Agronomic Engineering Course of Polytechnic School, showing the indigenous and satisfactorily acclimated plants. In 1917, it will be published "*Les Bois Indígènes of São Paulo*", by Edmundo Navarro de Andrade and Otavio Vecchi, respectively chief and assistant of Forestry Service of Paulista Company of RailRoads, where were identified

hundreds of plant species. In 1929, the botanic Francisco Carlos Hoehne, director of the Botanical Garden of Paulista Museum and later the Botanical Garden of São Paulo, publishes "*As plantas ornamentais da flora brasilica e seu papel como fatores da salubridade publica, da estethica urbana e das artes decorativas nacionaes*"(The ornamental plants of the Brazilian flora and its role as factor of public health, urban esthetic and decorative national arts), showing, as the title indicates, the broad spectrum of applications of the Brazilian native flora.

The distribution of this vegetable repertoire which was being researched and tested in state institutions and in the urban environmental areas was in charge of the Botanical Garden of Cantareira and the Agronomic Institute of the State, respectively located in the capital and in the interior cities (Löfgren, 1906). The seedlings were distributed to private property, to the City Councils and Municipal Governments, to schools, hospitals, convents, Cemeteries of the capital and of the interior, where the evidence of the exchange of seedlings can be proved and compared through the research carried out in the reports of 1909 to 1912 of the "*Serviço de Distribuição de Plantas e Sementes"* (Service of Distribution of Plants and Seeds) (fig. 2 and 3) of the Agronomic Institute of the State and in researches in cities formed along the four railroad branches which gave opportunity to the occupation of the West Paulista.

At that period, the most requested species at the Agronomic Institute were *Alfeneiro do Japão* (*Ligustrum japonicum*) , *eucalyptus* (several species) and *Magnolia Amarela* (*Michelia champaca*). During all that period the city which most requested seedlings at the Agronomic Institute was the city of São Paulo. However, some differences are noted in the application of this repertoire in the capital and in the interior cities. While the *alfeneiro do japão* has its simultaneous application in the capital and in the interior of the state where the most evident example was its use on Paulista Avenue afforestation, the *eucalyptus*, very used at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth century in Sao Paulo, ceases to be used in the capital after 1910, but appears as one of the most distributed species in the Agronomic Institute in all years of the period examined (1909 to 1912). The same thing occurs with the *plátano*, ceasing to be used in the capital in 1909, only from 1911 it will reappear in the lists of demands at the Agronomic Institute and yet very timid. On the other hand, the *jacaranda mimoso*


INSTITUTO AGRONOMICO DO ESTADO DE S. PAULO 105

SERVIÇO DE DISTRIBUIÇÃO DE MUDAS E SEMENTES

N. 4493

Campinas 27 Outubro de 1909

Prefeitura Municipal

Franca

Director

75 Mudas Alfeneiros do Japão

24 ... Magnolias

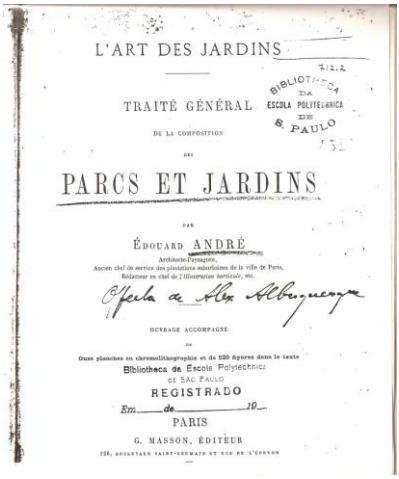

*Fig. 2 (Left) - Distribution of seedlings and seeds of Agronomic Institute of the State of São Paulo. Order of dispatch of seedlings requested, with the description of the species, quantity, the name of solicitor, city. Fig. 3 (Right) - Map with the towns which have been attended with seedlings by Agronomic Institute of the State of São Paulo in the period of 1909 to 1912 and its relationship with the railways. The area in green corresponds to the so called West Paulista*

(*Jacaranda mimosofoliae*), which will replace the *plátano*, *eucalyptus* and *alfeneiro* (all exotic species) in several streets of the Paulista capital, appeared for the first time in 1915 in some streets in the suburb Brás and a large part of blends opened by the City Company (Guaraldo, 2002), already appear in the list of the Agronomic Institute in 1911 (Zechinato, 2008).

Regardless of these timing differences, what is clear is that, if in a first moment, the exotic species are the species which predominate in the urban environment, in a second moment (which in São Paulo occurs after 1915), come to predominate native species, showing a clear nationalist enthusiasm, which will culminate in the Week of Modern Art of 1922. The most evident example is again the Paulista Avenue that in 1919 receives native species - *ipês amarelos* (*Tabebuia chrisotricha*) interspersed by exotic species - *alfeneiros do japão* (*Ligustrum japonicum*) and the project of the Park of Paulista (nowadays Siqueira Campos Park) by the urbanist Barry Parker. Parker proposes to maintain the forest in its integrity, contrary to the proposal by Ramos de Azevedo, where a house of spectacles would occupy great part of the center of the block and opposite to the belvedere of his authorship already inaugurated in 1916. Also in 1919 it is edited by Alfred Usteri the "*Guia Botanico do Jardim da Luz e da Praca da Republica"* (The Botanical Garden Guide for Jardim da Luz and for Praça da República). The book has an introductory note by the nationalist writer Monteiro Lobato, and some native species of plants already appear and are introduced (Usteri, 1919).

On one hand there is a clear change in the increased vegetal repertoire used, on the other hand the landscape repertoire is marked much more by a change of posture than of design in the free spaces. The affiliation to French models used in the Paris of the mid 19th century, is noted by the articles about gardening which circulated at the time as the one by Jules Vacherot, "*Parcs et Gardens au Commèncement du XX-ème siècle"* , whose first edition, in 1908, as set out in the Library of the Architecture and Urbanism College in the University of São Paulo, belonged to agronomist Antonio Andrea Etzel, graduated at the

School of Agronomy of São Miguel and director of the Administration of Gardens appointed by the Mayor Antonio Prado. The second edition, 1925, was dedicated to architect Joseph Antonie Bouvard, the successor of Alphand in the Service of Parks and Sidewalks in Paris . In this publication it can also be found surfboard drawings prepared for the Boulevard of the cities of São Paulo and Buenos Aires (1906- 1909). (Guaraldo, 2002). Another treaty which had been circulating in the period was Edouard Andrew's (collaborator of Alphand) denominated "*Traite general de la composition des parcs et gardens"* (fig. 4), 1879, whose copy is available in the Library of Polytechnic University of São Paulo belonged to Alexandre Albuquerque, architect-engineer graduated in 1905 and subsequently professor of the same School and whose father was Frederick Albuquerque , inspector of Public Gardens of São Paulo in 1889 and replaced in 1891 by Albert Löfgren.


L'ART DES JARDINS

TRAITÉ GÉNÉRAL

DE LA COMPOSITION

DES

PARCS ET JARDINS

PAR

ÉDOUARD ANDRÉ

Architecte-Paysagiste,

Ancien chef du service des plantations nécessaires de la ville de Paris,

Rédacteur en chef de l'*Illustration horticole*, etc.

OUVRAGE ACCOMPAGNÉ

DE

Cent planches en chromolithographie et de 320 figures dans le texte

PARIS

G. MASSON, ÉDITEUR

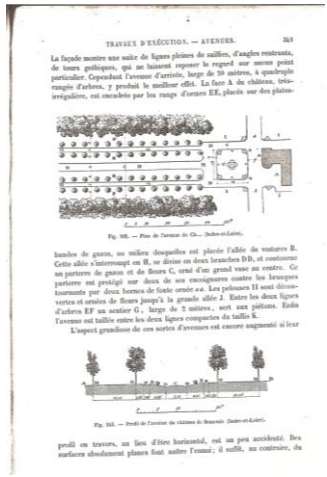

TRAVAUX D'EXÉCUTION. — AVENUES.

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*Fig. 4 - Traite general de la composition des parcs et gardens.*

In these treaties various styles of gardens are exposed showing which ones are the most appropriate for each situation or even those which admit two styles in the same space. Thus, the *style paysager* was considered propitious for large areas such as parks, gardens and residential rural areas. However, for small squares (such as the *Parisian squares*) it was indicated the *style géométrique*. For the parks and properties of large extensions it was also advised the *style composite*, with the *style géométrique* joined to the edification, turning gradually to the *style paysager*, for the most extensive promoting areas. The treaties also specified the species to be used as well as their location to achieve the desired effect (Vacherot, 1879).

## LANDSCAPE AND VEGETAL REPERTORY IN THE WEST PAULISTA

With the circulation of European Landscapers in the city of São Paulo; with the exchange of plant species among botanical gardens and institutions for research, schools and individual firms (both in the capital and in the cities of the interior) and the dissemination of some of these species catalogs (such as the various catalogs that circulated from the

firm Dierberger & Cia, Fig. 5) and books (as those already mentioned); there was a context which created conditions for the dissemination of a vegetable and landscape repertoire which reached the cities that were being founded or remodeled along the 4 railway branches which occupied the West Paulista. The distribution of seedlings and seeds, from both the Agronomic Institute of the State and the firm Dierberger & Cia, played a crucial role in disseminating this directory using vegetable-supply lines by rail, as it can be seen in the map with cities attended by the Agronomic Institute in the period of 1909 to 1912 (Fig. 3) and the fields of culture of Dierberger firm (Fig. 6). It was by the rail that circulated, therefore, the plants, the professionals and a landscape repertoire.

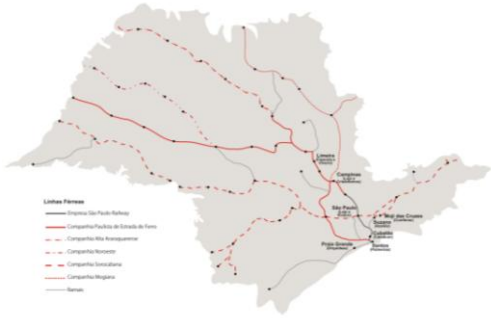
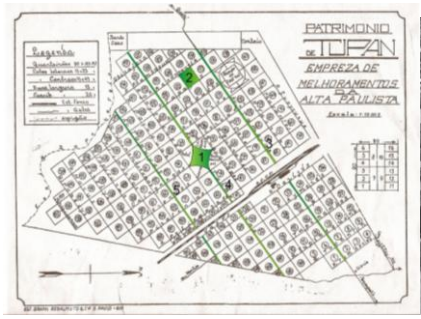



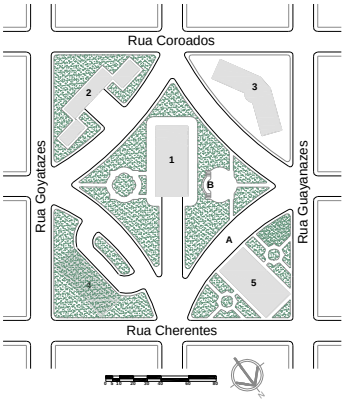
*Fig 5 Catalog 1905 Establishment Floriculture. firm open by John Dierberger in 1893 in São Paulo. Appearing 6 Map with the fields of culture of the Firms Dierberger in the State of São Paulo and its relationship with the railway lines.*

Two of the cities researched by the scholarship student Bruna Zechinato, have shown that there was a consonance between the vegetable repertoire applied in the city of São Paulo and in the interior cities (preserved some timing differences as cited above). In the city of Jaboticabal, for example, the species which are common to the ones used in São Paulo are: *Araucária* (*Araucaria brasiliensis*), *Cedro Nacional* (*Cedrella fissilis*), *Cipreste* (*Cupressus sempervirens L.*), *Figueira, Jacarandá* and *Pinheiro* (not specified which variety, but probably it was the *Jacaranda mimosifolia*), *Magnólia Amarela* (*Michelia champaca*), *Palmeira Imperial* (*Roystonea oleraceae)*, *Plátano* (*Platanus orientalis*) and *Tuia* (*Thuya sp.).* In the city of Jahu, the common species to the ones in São Paulo were: *Alfeneiro do Japão* (*Ligustrum japonicum*), *Pinheiro*, *Magnólia*, *Murta* (not specified which variety), *Flamboyant* (*Caesalpinia flamboyants*), *Cipreste* (*Cupressus sempervirens L.)* and *Saponaria* (*Sapindus saponaria*). It is interesting to observe how the *palmeira imperial*, symbol of previous political regime, is always present in the majority of squares and farms of the West Paulista.

In the 69 studied squares along the 4 railway branches, the predominant design, was the regular and symmetrical ones(Fig. 7, 8, 9). The equipment built in these squares probably reflected the ones used in "Jardim da Luz" in São Paulo City, which in 1901 had its reform completed with the insertion of new equipments: the bandstand, the kiosk, the banks and the iron luminaires. All these elements are present in the majority of the studied squares in the West Paulista. Nevertheless, while there was a change of posture in the gardens of the city of São Paulo since 1919, with the preservation of remnant forest integrated to the project by Barry Parker for the Park of Paulista Avenue, in the West

Paulista, we found no similar situations in the squares and gardens of the studied cities. On the contrary, the iconography shows how separate the forest, the areas for cultivation of coffee and the city were.




*1- The Matrix church*
*2- The Municipal Elementary School*
*3- Tamoios Hotel*
*4- The City council and The City Hall*
*5- Tupa Cinema*

*Fig 7 (Top left) - Plant of the Patrimony of the city of Tupa, with the location of the proposed squares outlined. In the center it can be seen the design of the railway (Companhia Paulista).*
*Fig. 8 (Top right) - Photo of "Praca da Bandeira" in the city of Tupa. Source: the same as the above.*
*Fig 9 (Bellow left) – Plant of the reconstitution of the design of "Bandeira Square"and the indication of its sourrounding buildings.*

## DEVASTATION X PRESERVATION

The concern with the large scale cut down of the vegetable coverings plant in the West Paulista, made the engineer agronomist Edmundo Navarro de Andrade (graduated at the *Escola Nacional de Coimbra*), of the Paulista Company of Railroads, research about the best species of tree which could be planted in large scale and with rapid growth, to replace the native wood and supply the furnaces of locomotives. The test of various species, including the native ones, showed that the Eucalyptus, exotic, was the most indicated. Contrary to the Paulista Company, the other companies such as the Sorocabana, kept sawmills in the cities of Assis and Candido Mota, using native wood to supply not only Sorocabana, but also other railroads (Simabuko, 2008). In the 1930s, there were 36 sawmills in the vicinity of Presidente Prudente (also attended by a line of Sorocabana) (Dean, 2004). However, not only the coffee plantations, the rail, the sawmills and implantation of large cities were responsible for the cutting down of the natural vegetable coverings. Warren Dean, in his classic book "*A Ferro e Fogo" (*By Iron and Fire), demonstrates how Europeans, excited by scientists' travel memories such as Humboldt, von Martius and La Condamine, helped to create a trade of some plant flowers such as

epiphyte inflorescentes- bromeliads, cacti and, above all, orchids making a single firm company import 100 to 200 thousand orchids per year. The problem, clarifies Dean, was that "the epiphyte desired by English, Belgian, French and German commercial agents were found up on the branches of the highest trees in the Atlantic Rainforest. The only practical way to obtain them was to cut down the trees" (Dean, 2004).

The coffee plantation was undoubtfully the main cause of deforestation. On one hand the practice of cutting down and burning the forest was a common activity for the planting of coffee, on the other hand some species such as *Pau d'alho* (*Gallesia goarzema*) were preserved from the cutting down of the forest because they were considered, owing to the total empiricism at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth, evidence of certainty of productivity for the planting of coffee crop (Dean, 2004).

It is with the introduction of agricultural technical practice located in Agronomic Institute of the State, in addition to other technical procedures located in the Department of Agriculture, Commerce and Public Works of the government of the State of São Paulo; with the dissemination of newspapers from this Registry, in addition to the professionals who were graduating in the Technical Agricultural School Luiz de Queiroz and in the course of agronomic engineering in Politechinic School, that this reality little by little will be changed by the propagation of technical and scientific knowledge in the relations of production.

## CONCLUSION

The systematic survey on the 69 squares of the 29 studied cities in western part of São Paulo state, inserted in the specific research about the vegetal repertoire in gardens and in institutes of education and research has shown a clear circulation of this repertoire in the public spaces of the capital and western São Paulo. Both the vegetal repertoire and landscape repertoire circulated through the professionals, the firms, the manuals and the books, and all was done by the railroads.

The set of actions and deeds showed a clear intention to give visibility to a new period of political and economic history of Brazil - the Republic, and with a clear partnership between free enterprise and the State.

In this context, the studied cities in the west part of São Paulo state proved to possess a landscape heritage that is overwhelmed by the uniqueness they have: squares with regular patterns, the result of urban layout in quadrangle; presence of two squares in cities (one dedicated to the Matrix Church and other to the railway station), presence of significant buildings from the Republican Era (the Municipal Elementary Schol and the Theater) around the central square or along the axis between the square of the Matrix Church and the Railroad Station; square furniture consists of benches, lamp posts, fountains and iron band gazebo and a common vegetable repertoire in most cities.

Ultimately, based on the research results, it becomes evident the need for preservation of the set of representative urban buildings and squares present in some cities in western São Paulo today, whose streets still have a route, equipment and original vegetation as well as surrounding buildings.

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