

OFFICIAL EVIDENCE OF SPAIN'S INFAMY

(Continued from Page 1.)

poses, selling for 20 cents apiece. It is a fair inference to draw from existing conditions that it is not possible for the governor general to relieve the present situation with the means at his disposal.

Dec. 13 came the following: The contest for and against autonomy is almost unbroken. For there are four or six of the head officers of the police, and twenty or thirty other persons here in the city. Against it, first, are the insurgents with or without arms, and the Cuban non-combatants. Second, the great mass of the Spaniards bearing or non-bearing arms, the latter desiring if there must be a change, annexation to the United States. Indeed, there is the greatest anarchy concerning autonomy in any form. I do not see how it could be even put into operation by force, because as long as the insurgents decline to accept it so long, the Spanish authorities say, the war must continue.

December 14th, General Lee sends another communication saying that the total number of reconcentrados in Havana province will reach 150,000 and that the death rate from starvation alone would be over 50 per cent. For the relief of these people he asks \$12,500 in silver has been set aside, so that if every dollar appropriated reaches them the distribution will average about 17 cents to a person.

MORE SPANISH PLOTS. December 28, General Lee makes the first communication about the new scheme of autonomy. He says that he has been informed that the authorities are engaged in forming an autonomous cabinet, arranging for the members to take the required oath on January 1, and also for an election thirty days thereafter. He adds:

My present information is that most of the Spaniards who refused to vote and nearly all the Cubans, are in the feeling in Havana and I hear in other parts of the island, is strong against it. The Cubans desiring an independent republic and the Spaniards preferring annexation to the United States rather than autonomy. On the night of 24th inst. there seems to have been a concerted plan over the island to testify to the disapprobation of the people to the proposed autonomous plan of the Spanish government. He goes on to describe how it culminated about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 25th when a mob assembled in the principal square with cries of "death to autonomy" and "Viva Weyler."

He says the men in the mob had stones in their pockets and some of them were armed with weapons. They made a demonstration, too, against the office of Diario de La Marina, a paper published in this town favoring autonomy, but were dispersed by the military police and soldiers.

LEE'S TERSE SUMMARY. Jan. 5, General Lee makes the following report:

I have the honor to state as a matter of public interest that the reconcentration order of General Weyler, formerly governor general of this island, transferred about 400,000 self-supporting people, principally women and children, into a military camp to be sustained by the contributions of the population or of fevers, resulting from a low physical condition and being massed in large lodgings without change of clothing and without food. Their homes were burned, their fields and plant beds destroyed and their lives slowly driven to the wall. I estimate that 20,000 of the rural population in the province of Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara, have died of starvation or from resultant causes, and the deaths of our families almost simultaneously, or within a few days of each other and of mothers praying for the death of their children, are not the least of the many terrible scenes which were ever present. In the province of Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba, where the reconcentration order could not be enforced, the great mass of people are self-sustaining.

A daily average of ten cents worth of food to 20,000 people would be an expenditure of \$20,000 per day and of course the most humane efforts upon the part of our citizens cannot hope to accomplish such a gigantic relief and a great portion of these people will have to be abandoned to their fate.

General Lee enclosed in this communication an article from El Diario de La Marina which vigorously denounced a recent summit of the day before as a victory for Gomez and the enemies of Spain.

Jan. 12, 13, 14 and 15, General Lee sent brief cablesgrams to the department with regard to rioting and the demonstrations against autonomy and Blanco and the newspaper offices. Jan. 17, he said some of the rioters threatened to go to the United States consulate. "Ships," he said, "are not needed but may be later. If Americans are in danger, ships should move promptly for Havana. Uncertainty and excitement widespread."

CONFIDENTIAL ADVICES. On the 18th, General Lee sent a dispatch marked "Confidential" regarding the rioting. It follows:

The recent disorders in this city are to be primarily attributed to a group of Spanish officers who were incited at articles appearing in three of the newspapers of Havana. I reconcentrado, Discussion and El Diario pronounced. The first was very pronounced, the next, Discussion, had been suppressed by Weyler, but it resumed by Blanco and the last had been converted by the present authorities to autonomy. It is probable that Spanish officers were first provoked by the denunciation of Weyler in the column of one of these papers and determined to stop it and afterwards, demonstration into an anti-autonomistic affair.

The intelligent Spaniards see no prosperity in the future, but rather other wars and more confusion, in the same old attempts to make the waters of commerce flow in natural channels. The lower Spanish classes have nothing in mind when autonomy is mentioned, except Cuban local rule, hence their opposition.

BLANCO RAFFLED. February 10 he telegraphed the state department as follows:

Captain general returned yesterday, met with no success of any sort. Spaniards everywhere unfriendly, rumors of coming demonstration against him here. He is in an excellent mood but in unfortunate position; three serious combats reported within a week, in each insurgents victorious.

The same day he sent to the state department a statement of the condition in the towns of the neighborhood of the city of Havana made by a person

he had sent to those places for the purpose of inspecting the number and condition of the starving. The statement covers four towns in the neighborhood of Havana and is largely a repetition of the awful tales of suffering which came from the other portions of the island. It says:

There are other towns in the same condition, for example, Catalina and Miraga, whose situation could be in some degree relieved if the country people were allowed to leave the town freely in search of food. In some towns they are not only prohibited, but others they are obliged to pay a tax. Not having anything to eat how can they pay a tax? In every town the first thing noticed is the unhealthy condition of the men and their total lack of physical strength. In these districts the relief given to the reconcentrados by General Blanco is a farce.

The land near the town comprised in the zone for cultivation, the statement says, has been rented by four Spaniards who have wealth and influence and they employ the few reconcentrados who are able to work until 20 or 40 cents per day, but nobody can leave the town without a pass good for a month and which costs 20 cents. The men are obliged to work until 4 in the evening without food. The women who leave in search of vegetables are sometimes deprived of them on their way back by guerrillas, so that 300 reconcentrados have died in Guines from starvation.

A LETTER FROM GOMEZ. On February 15 General Lee transmitted to the department a letter with its translation signed by the insurgent commander-in-chief, General Gomez, addressed to President McKinley. General Lee says the letter was delivered by a messenger who at once departed before he saw or had any communication with him. The literal translation is as follows:

To William McKinley, president of the United States—Sir: The poor Cuban people possess as a characteristic trait the same noble and generous impulses, one of the most noble sentiments, namely, gratitude; whoever has done well for Cuba wins our admiration and the lively recognition of the sons of the Cuban soil.

Your great people have given to the whole world an example of lofty virtues and to the shame and stain of Spain not only has it shown compassion before the great misfortunes brought on Cuba by the ferocious Spanish policy, but has extended a helping hand to the unhappy victims of the warfare carried on by the army of that nation.

The attitude of this people must be on a par with that great and generous impulse, and if Cuba by its geographical situation and the necessity of its commercial existence is called upon to maintain, once that it is free and for the mutual benefit of both countries, closer relations with your great republic than with any other nation whatever, from this day forward, Cuba will consider herself bound by a closer tie in the affection it bears for the noble American magnanimity.

However true and minute may be the reports that you have heard, never will you be able to form a just conception of all the bloodshed, the misery, the ruin and the sorrow caused to the afflicted Cubans, to obtain her independence, and how the despotic spirit of Spain, irritated to the last degree before the most just of all reconcentration, has revealed in the most implacable destruction of everything, lives and property. The nation which at one time adopted the inquisition and invented its tortures lastly concentrated in reconcentration camps, the most horrible of all means to martyrize and then to annihilate an entire people, and if it has stopped in the present, it is due to a great measure to the cry of indignation which the knowledge of such horrors unanimously drew from the states over which you govern.

The people who are saved from extinction and whose evils your gift assuage, is the people for whose liberty I daily shed our blood on the field of battle; the country whose independence we now conquer at the point of the sword for them as also for us; blood and sweat and flesh of our flesh; we must rejoice with them in their joys as we weep and sympathize with them in their sorrow and grief. Be not then, then, that as the general in chief of this Cuban army, I am so deeply moved at the wave of compassion which agitates your noble country that I accede to the request of the patriots I command to appear before you, the representative of the great nation, as the spokesman of our immense suffering. I have therefore, sir, to fulfill a conscientious duty by setting forth a fact which I beg you will please transmit to the knowledge of the persons to whom is recommended the philanthropic mission of succoring the unhappy, destitute Cubans, in order that assistance of certain antecedents may not deprive many needy ones of the enjoyment of that noble American charity.

The revolution, as absolute master of the country, has never proscribed any citizen, whatever his nationality, and it has not proscribed the life of any citizen. As soon as the barbaric concentration decree was proclaimed, innumerable families have left and still do leave the island, impelled by hunger to wrest from the fruitful Cuban vegetation the means of relieving the most pressing needs of life. The Spaniards by steel and privation have shrouded their hearts in mourning, so also it may be said that the Bora of Cuba was in mourning, devastated by the bullet and torch. Wherefore being in the same circumstances these unfortunates have the same moral right to participate in the relief furnished to needy Cubans by your generous people. Many a widow, many a mother, many an orphan do we meet in our walks who ask us if we can do anything to give to them but most sparingly and therefore upon pointing out to them the charity awakened in their behalf, by your noble nation, I desire to honor myself by offering my services to cooperate in the noble work with all the power at my disposal, and to the reach of the forces I command. I am, sir, with the most distinguished consideration, (Signed) M. Gomez.

March 1, General Lee reports that the distribution of food, medicines and clothing to the destitute is proceeding satisfactorily under the supervision and direction of Miss Clara Barton of the Red Cross. He says that the number of poor and destitute is so large that it is impossible to relieve large numbers in each locality.

SPANISH HELLSHNESS. March 13, he encloses a letter from Consul Barker, of Sagua, who requests him to transmit the following letter which is addressed to him (General Lee):

"Dear Sir: I will thank you to communicate to the department as quickly as possible the fact that the military commander and other military officers positively refuse to allow the reconcentrados to whom I am issuing food in its raw state to prepare food with which to cook the food. In addition they prohibit this class of people from any kind of food to about one-fifth of the destitute who are unable to have altogether from receiving any relief from Spaniards, telling them the 'American' propose to feed you and to the 'American' you must look." * * *

General Lee informs the department on March 17 that the decree of March 15 promulgated in all parts to July 21,

1896, the decree of the general government of April 19, 1897, relative to the suspension of legal proceedings against agricultural estates with the reservation of what may be agreed upon by the insular chambers, "in due season." General Lee gives details about the distribution of supplies, and adds: "Have been greatly assisted by Mr. Klopsch."

MORE HELLSHNESS. March 26 General Lee reports that "instructions have been given by the civil government of Havana that Alcaides and other officers shall not give out any facts about the reconcentrados and if any of the American relief committees should make inquiries concerning them all such inquiries must be referred to him."

General Lee's dispatch concludes with a dispatch under date of April 1, transmitting the decree of the governor general terminating the reconcentration order.

THE MAINE DISASTER. The consular correspondence also in part was devoted to the Maine disaster and in this some important and interesting points are developed. The correspondence consists largely of cablegrams exchanged by Assistant Secretary of State Day and Consul General Lee. The first of the telegrams is dated in Havana, January 12, and relates to the riots which were then occurring in the city. This and the subsequent telegrams on the same subject have been published either in whole or in part.

On January 24 General Lee was notified by the state department that the Maine would call at Havana in a day or two and was directed to make arrangements for the reception of the friendly calls between officers and authorities. Under the same date General Lee advised a postponement of the Maine's visit for six or seven days.

THEATRICAL ATTRACTIONS.

A Contented Woman. One of Hoyt's best comedies "A Contented Woman" was produced at the Lyceum yesterday and evening. It was by a company headed by Miss Belle Archer, a graceful young woman who has many friends in this city. The play was written by Hoyt as a medium for his beautiful wife, Caroline Miskel Hoyt, to star in. Miss Archer is almost as beautiful as Mrs. Hoyt, and a somewhat better actress. She did very well in the fairly good comedy yesterday and the performances given were very enjoyable.

Good Repertoire Company. There was a good sized audience at the Academy of Music last night at the opening of the engagement of the repertoire company headed by Miss Alma Chester. The drama presented was "Wife for Wife," one of intense human interest that is filled with exciting incidents and situations. The company presenting the drama is composed of excellent material.

The services of the boy belonged to the father, therefore he is entitled to what he would naturally earn from time to time. In this case the amount of damage in a case of this kind for which the boy could earn without giving credit for what he would naturally have to pay for the support and maintenance of the boy. The support and maintenance of the boy would be the father, for which he is entitled to receive.

The instruction complained of was wrong and calculated to mislead the jury in their deliberations as to the amount of the damage plaintiff sustained, and undoubtedly did mislead them. The error is such as to require the granting of a new trial, and it is unnecessary the discussion of any of the other reasons assigned, and regarding which, as the case has to be retried, I had better express no opinion.

The recent appointment by General Gobin of Dr. George H. Halberstadt, of Pottsville, to be brigade surgeon and attached to General John's staff, was made known here yesterday in a personal letter from Dr. Halberstadt to Major W. S. Miller. The news is received with considerable favor by those acquainted with the appointee.

At Music Hall, Manager Fenwysky, of Music Hall, will introduce the last burlesque entertainment in this city, for this season, for three days, commencing next Thursday, March 14. Weber's famous Parisian Widows company were especially selected for this occasion. No wiser selection could have been made by the management. Mr. Weber's company is conceded by everybody to be the finest, the cleanest and most artistic burlesque attraction on the American stage. It is under the personal management of M. J. Lawrence Weber, The Parisian Widows were seen here at Davis' theatre last October. The company is almost the same as when last seen here.

While at work in the blacksmith shop yesterday morning, John Ash, of Mica street, an employe of the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company, had his arm fractured and was taken to the Moses Taylor hospital.

Debt Was Paid Twice. Andrew Achadock, of Archbold, was yesterday committed to jail by Alderman Miller in default of \$300 ball on a charge preferred by George Reminski that the defendant had secured \$700 from Mrs. Reminski after obtaining the same sum from him in payment of a debt for that amount.

NEW TRIAL GRANTED IN JENNINGS CASE

Dollar Verdict Set Aside by Judge Searle on Ground of Error.

PART OF CHARGE MISLEADING

In the Case of John G. Jennings Against Lehigh Valley Railroad Company for Damages for Loss of Services of His Son, Judge Searle Admits That a Portion of His Instructions to the Jury Was Misleading Because It Was Incomplete.

On the ground that error was committed in charging the jury that the plaintiff was entitled to recover only for the net earnings of his son, Judge P. W. Searle, of Montrose, yesterday granted a new trial in the case of John G. Jennings against the Lehigh Valley Railroad company, which was asked for by the defendant after securing a verdict of \$1. Judge Searle was called here to specially preside at the trial of the case. The opinion is as follows:

Rule to show cause why a new trial shall not be granted: This is an action in trespass by John G. Jennings vs. the Lehigh Valley Railroad company to recover damages which he claims he has sustained by reason of his minor son, James Jennings, having been injured while a passenger upon the railroad of defendant through the negligence of the defendant.

First—The court erred in rejecting the plaintiff's offer to prove the verdict and judgment in the case of James Jennings by his next friend, John G. Jennings, vs. the Lehigh Valley Railroad company.

Second—Also in charging the jury that the plaintiff was not entitled to recover for the services of his wife and daughter in nursing the injured party.

Third—Also in charging the jury that the plaintiff was entitled only to recover the net earnings of his minor son.

Fourth—Also in affirming the defendant's demand, third, fifth and sixth points.

Fifth—The verdict is against the law and the evidence and the charge of the court.

Sixth—The verdict is unlawful, inconsistent and absurd in this. It finds that the plaintiff suffered damage, and allows him only nominal damage.

Seventh—The court erred in permitting its verdict to be read to the jury in the presence of the court and the plaintiff and the defendant's counsel.

Upon these reasons the above rule was granted. Do 11, 1897, the following additional reason was filed.

The court erred in charging that Dr. Gibbons in a short time after the accident visited the boy and found him suffering from inflammatory rheumatism.

On the question of the measure of damage, the jury was instructed inter alia, as follows:

MEASURE OF DAMAGES. "The services of the boy belonged to the father, therefore he is entitled to what he would naturally earn from time to time. In this case the amount of damage in a case of this kind for which the boy could earn without giving credit for what he would naturally have to pay for the support and maintenance of the boy would be the father, for which he is entitled to receive."

INJUNCTION WRONG. The instruction complained of was wrong and calculated to mislead the jury in their deliberations as to the amount of the damage plaintiff sustained, and undoubtedly did mislead them.

DR. HALBERSTADT APPOINTED. Has Been Appointed Third Brigade Surgeon by General Gobin.

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CONVENTION CALL

Third Legislative District. In pursuance of a resolution of the standing committee of the Third Legislative district of Lackawanna county, adopted at its meeting held Saturday, the 9th of April, 1898, the district convention will be held on Tuesday, the 29th day of April, 1898, at 2 p. m. in Reese's Hall, Taylor, Pa., for the purpose of electing two (2) delegates to the Republican state convention, to be held at Harrisburg on June 2nd, 1898.

Vigilance committees will hold delegate elections on Saturday, April 16th, 1898, between the hours of 4 and 7 p. m. They will give at least two (2) days' notice of the time and place for holding said elections.

The representation of delegates to the said district convention is based upon the vote cast for James S. Beacom, Republican candidate for the office of state treasurer, he being the highest officer voted for at the last preceding state election.

Table with 2 columns: District, Number of Delegates. Lists districts from Benton to West Abington with corresponding delegate counts.

By order of THURSTON S. PARKER, Chairman. JOHN R. JOHNS, Secretary.

Fourth Legislative District.

Notice is hereby given to the Republican voters of the Fourth legislative district of Lackawanna county, that a convention will be held at Father Matthew Opera house, in Olyphant, at 4 o'clock p. m. on Thursday, the 14th day of April, 1898, for the purpose of electing three delegates to represent said district in the Republican state convention, to be held at Harrisburg, June 2, 1898, and also to nominate one person to represent said district in the house of representatives, at Harrisburg for the next two years.

Vigilance committees will hold primaries in their several precincts on Tuesday, the 13th day of April, between the hours of 6 and 7 p. m. for the election of delegates to compose said convention.

Table with 2 columns: Precinct, Number of Delegates. Lists precincts from Archbold to Waverly with delegate counts.

E. A. Jones, Chairman. Samuel S. Jones, Secretary.

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