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## CONDITIONS IN CUBA.

### PITIFUL FLIGHT OF HAPLESS CONCENTRADOS.

Portrayed by Proctor—The Senator Makes a Statement to the Senate—An Appalling Story of Misery and Death.

Washington, March 17.—Senator Proctor, of Vermont, who returned last Sunday from an extended trip to and through the Island of Cuba, this afternoon made a statement to the Senate of his observations on the island.

### A DRAMATIC SCENE.

The scene in the Senate just preceding and during the delivery of the speech was almost dramatic in the intensity of its interest. The occasion of the address arose very unexpectedly. The national quarantine bill was under discussion, and Senator Mallory (Fla.) had been recognized for a speech in opposition to the pending measure. Mr. Frye entered the chamber, and interrupting Mr. Mallory, requested him to yield to Mr. Proctor, who desired to make a statement concerning his observations in Cuba, of interest to the Senate and to the country.

### PROCTOR'S STATEMENT.

Mr. Proctor, in beginning, stated that his trip was entirely unofficial and was not suggested by any one. Mr. Proctor said, in part:

"Of General Lee I need say little. His valuable services to his country in his trying position are too well known to all his countrymen to require mention. Beside his ability, high character and courage, he possesses the important requisites of unflinching tact and courtesy, and withal, his military education and training and his soldierly qualities are invaluable adjuncts in the equipment of our representative in a country so completely under military rules as is Cuba."

Senator Proctor also eulogized Bricó and Barker.

"It has been stated that I said there was no doubt the Maine was blown up from the outside," he continued. "This is a mistake. I may have said that such was the general impression among Americans in Havana. In fact, I have no opinion about it myself, and carefully avoided forming one."

Senator Proctor described the places he had visited and of the warlike conditions of things on the island outside of Havana. The order of concentration has produced desolation. He told of Weyler's order for concentration and of the effect it had had upon the concentrados.

Continuing, he said:

### UNHAPPY CONCENTRADOS.

"The execution of this order was left largely to the guerrillas to drive in all that had not obeyed, and I was informed that in many cases a torch was applied to their homes, with no notice, and the inmates fled with such clothing as they might have on, their stock and other belongings being appropriated by the guerrillas. When they reached the towns they were allowed to build huts of palm leaves in the suburbs and vacant places within the trocha, and left to live if they could. Their huts are about ten by fifteen feet in size, and for want of space are usually crowded together. They have no floor but the ground and no furniture, and after a year's wear but little clothing except such stray substitutes as they can extemporize. With large families or with more than one in this little space, the commonest sanitary provisions are impossible. Conditions are unmentionable in this respect. Torn from their homes, with foul earth, foul air, foul water and foul food, or none, what wonder that one-half have died and that one-quarter of the living are so diseased that they cannot be saved! A form of dropsy is a common disorder resulting from these conditions. Little children are still walking about with arms and chest terribly emaciated and abdomen bloated to three times the natural size. The physicians say these cases are hopeless.

### DEATHS IN THE STREETS.

"Deaths in the streets have not been uncommon. I was told by one of our consuls that they have been found dead about the markets in the morning where they have crawled hoping to get some stray bits of food from the early butchers, and that there had been cases where they had dropped dead inside the market surrounded by food. These people were independent and self-supporting before Weyler's order. They are not beggars even now.

"Of the hospitals I need not speak. Others have described their condition far better than I can. It is not within the narrow limits of my vocabulary to portray it. I went to Cuba with a strong conviction that the picture had been overdrawn; but a few cases of starvation and suffering had inspired and stimulated the press correspondents and they had given free play to a strong, natural and highly cultivated imagination. Before starting, I received through the mail a leaflet published by the Christian Herald, with cuts of some of the sick and starving reconcentrados, and took it with me thinking these were rare specimens got up to make the worse possible showing. I saw plenty as bad and worse—many that should not be photographed and shown.

### APPALLING MORTALITY.

"I could not believe that out of a population of 1,600,000, two hundred thousand had died within these Spanish forts, practically prison walls, within a few months past, from actual starvation and disease caused by insufficient and improper food. My inquiries were entirely outside of sensational sources. They were made of our medical officers, of our consuls, of city alcaldes (mayors), of relief committees, of leading merchants and bankers, physicians and lawyers. Several of my informants were Spanish born, but every time the answer was that the case had not been over-stated.

"General Blanco's order of November 13 last somewhat modified Weyler's order, but is of little or no practical benefit. Its application is limited to farms properly defended, and the owners are obliged to build 'centres of defense.' Its execution is completely in the discretion of the local military authorities, and they know the terrible military efficiency of Weyler's order in stripping the country of all possible shelter, food or source of information for an insurgent, and will be slow to surrender this advantage. In fact, though the order was issued four months ago, I saw no beneficial results from it worth mentioning."

### THE CUBANS.

Speaking of the Cubans the Senator said:

"There are, or were before the war, about one million Cubans on the island, two hundred thousand Spaniards (which means those born in Spain), and less than half a million of negroes and mixed blood. The percentage of colored to white has been steadily diminishing for more than fifty years, and is not now over 25 per cent. of the total. In fact, the number of colored people has been actually diminishing for nearly that time.

"One thing that was new to me was to learn the superiority of the well-to-do Cuban over the Spaniard in the matter of education. Among those in good circumstances there can be no doubt that the Cuban is far superior in this respect.

"It is said that there are about sixty thousand Spanish soldiers now in Cuba fit for duty out of over two hundred thousand that have been sent there. The rest have died, been sent home sick, are in the hospitals, and some have been killed, notwithstanding the official reports.

### THE INSURGENT FORCES.

"Having called on Governor and Captain General Blanco and received his courteous call in return, I could not with propriety seek communication with insurgents. I had plenty of offers of safe conduct to Gonzalez's camp, and was told that if I would write him, answer would be returned

safely within ten days at most. I saw several who had visited the insurgent camps, and was sought out by an insurgent field officer who gave me the best information received as to the insurgent force. His statements were moderate, and I was credibly informed that he was entirely reliable. He claimed that the Cubans had about thirty thousand men now in the field, some in every province, but mostly in the two Eastern provinces and Eastern Santa Clara, and this statement was corroborated from other good sources.

"They have a force all the time in Havana province itself, organized as four small brigades and operating in small bands. Ruiz was taken, tried and shot within about a mile and a half of the railroad and about fifteen miles out of Havana on the road to Mantanzas, a road more traveled than any other.

"Arrangueren was killed about three miles the other side of the road, about the same distance, 15 or 20 miles, from Havana. The insurgents are well armed but very poorly supplied with ammunition. They are not allowed to carry many cartridges—sometimes not more than one or two. The infantry especially are poorly clad."

### AUTONOMY A FAILURE.

Senator Proctor said the army and Spanish citizens do not want autonomy for that means government by the Cuban people. As for the Cubans, they say that the offer of it comes too late. If it succeeds, it can only be by armed force.

"I could not but conclude," said the speaker, "that you do not have to scratch an autonomist very deep to find a Cuban. There is soon to be an election, but every polling place must be inside a fortified town. Such elections ought to be safe for us."

"I have endeavored to state in no intemperate mood what I saw and heard, and to make no argument thereon, but leave every one to draw his own conclusions. To me the strongest appeal is not the barbarity practiced by Weyler nor the loss of the Maine, if our worst fears should prove true, terrible as are both of these incidents, but the spectacle of a million and a half people, the entire native population of Cuba, struggling for freedom and deliverance from the worst misgovernment of which I ever had knowledge. The fear that if free the people of Cuba would be revolutionary is not so well founded as has been supposed, and the conditions for good self-government are far more favorable.

"But it is not my purpose at this time, nor do I consider it my province, to suggest any plan. I merely speak of the symptoms as I saw them, but do not undertake to prescribe such remedial steps as may be required may safely be left to an American President and the American people."

## Take JOHNSON'S CHILL & FEVER TONIC.

A Noble Undertaking.

A convention will be held in Seneca, S. C., on June 15-16, for the purpose of forming a State Federation of Women's Literary Clubs. This convention will be composed of delegates from women's clubs in the State. The purpose of this federation is to uplift women socially and intellectually, and will not involve her in political issues. The delegates will be entertained by the "Once A Week" Club of Seneca, and if possible a reduction of fare will be obtained from the railroads. Any one interested in this matter will please address

Mrs. James H. Adams, Pres. Pro. Tem, Once A Week Club, Seneca, S. C.

The newspapers of the State will please copy the above.

## A TELL-TALE LETTER

### THROWING LIGHT ON THE MAIN DISASTER.

Written By Weyler—Evidence Showing that the Explosion Was Undoubtedly An Act of Spanish Treachery.

New York, March 17.—The New York Journal this afternoon prints a statement written by Honoré F. Laine, the newspaper correspondent recently arrested and searched by Spanish officials in Cuban prison, Havana, and later expelled from the island. This is the opening of Laine's statement:

"On January 24, at 10 o'clock at night, I met in the Cafe Inglaterra, the headquarters of the reporters in Havana, Francisco Diaz, a reporter of the rabid Spanish paper La Union Constitucional, with whom I frequently exchanged news.

"On asking him if he had anything to give me, he took from his pocket a letter and handed it to me, saying: 'Weyler wrote this letter to Santos Guzman, who sent it to Novo (the editor of the La Union Constitucional) for him to read and write an article on the acceptance by Weyler of the candidacy of deputy to the cortes for Havana. I took this copy, which you can keep.'"

The following is the alleged letter referred to above:

### WRITTEN BY WEYLER.

"To His Excellency, Don Francisco de los Santos Guzman, Havana:

"My Distinguished Personal and Political Friend: Since the latest events I have changed my views about the attitude which our political party in Cuba ought to assume. If I have thought before that it was more dignified for us to abstain from the electoral contest, I believe now that it is a patriot's duty for us to go to the polls. Our success cannot be doubted; neither can our majority of voters, nor that with a programme of defense of the national honor we will have side by side with us all those lukewarm politicians who, though Spaniards by heart, are deceived by the inside combination of Moret and Sagasta, and take as scientific solutions of our colonial problems what are really dishonorable humiliations of our country before the United States.

"Write on your flag, the flag of Spain, 'Defense of National Honor,' and I offer you my name as your candidate.

"After having commanded during two years two hundred thousand Spanish heroes in Cuba, the title I shall be more proud of is that of deputy from Havana at the cortes of Spain.

"By the way: I have read these days that the Americans are pondering about sending one of their warships to that city. During my command in Cuba they did not even dare to dream about it. They knew the terrible punishment that awaited them.

"I had Havana harbor well prepared for such an emergency. I rapidly finished the work that Martinez Campos carelessly abandoned.

"If the insult is made, I hope that there will be a Spanish hand to punish it as terribly as it deserves.

"Romeró is in better health than his friends could have expected, and not withstanding how morally sick I feel, breathing this humiliating atmosphere, I am well also.

"Your affectionate friend and servant, 'VALERIANO WEYLER,' Madrid, January 8, 1898."

### CAUSE OF LAINE'S ARREST.

Laine says that he read the letter and pigeonholed it. When the Maine arrived he called at the office of the Union Constitucional to see Diaz, in an effort to secure the original of the letter. Some days after the Maine explosion Laine met Diaz, who asked him if he remembered the letter and what its contents were about an American warship. The American correspondent replied that he did, and that he believed some one had followed Weyler's advice.

Laine says that he has since found out that Diaz informed the chief of police that he (Laine) had a copy of a letter written by Weyler which

might bring trouble to the Spanish government, especially as he was an American newspaper correspondent who was associating with Capt. Laine. Hence his arrest on March 4th.

Continuing his narrative, Laine says:

### SUBMARINE MINES.

"I had noticed for several nights mysterious work which was being done in the fortress. On inquiring from a soldier whom I know what it was, he informed me that they were carrying from the magazine of the fortress large quantities of dynamite, which were being laid in the harbor.

"My investigations during my period of imprisonment were carried as far as a political prison could do in a Spanish fortress, but it was sufficient for me to ascertain with certainty that the quantity of dynamite placed in the harbor in different places was two tons, and that the wires of the mines were connected with the Cabanas Fortress and the Cañitania de Puerto, or marine headquarters."

### THE WEYLER LETTER DENIED.

Indrid, March 18.—Gen. Weyler denies the authenticity of the letter published in the New York Journal yesterday, in which the former captain general of Cuba is alleged to have said that the United States would not have dared send a warship to Havana while he was in command there, as "they knew the terrible punishment that awaited them" adding that he had Havana harbor "well prepared for such emergency" having "rapidly finished the work that Martinez Campos carelessly abandoned."

Havana, March 18.—Don Francisco de los Santos Guzman, to whom Weyler's alleged letter was said to have been addressed, denies that he ever received such a letter. Francisco Diaz, the newspaper reporter, who is alleged to have given the letter to a Journal correspondent, denies all knowledge of it.

## Johnson's Chill and Fever Tonic Cures Fever In One Day.

### GRREAT BRITAIN SAYS THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR ALARM.

The Air Surprised That America Should Get Excited Over Prospects of War With so Poor a Fo as Spain.

London, March 21.—The Daily Mail this morning, in an editorial referring "some of the American accusations of British coldness," says: "Among many reasons for Great Britain's comparative non-interest, not the least is our better knowledge of the Spaniards and their paper navy; and our conviction that the Anglo-Saxon will always defeat the Latin. Indeed, the trend of British thought is toward surprise that the greatest of republics should excite itself unduly about so poor a foe. The Americans should remember that while we are full of trust in their capability to deal with Spain's impertinences, we are fully occupied with far greater troubles threatened orative in various parts of the world. They have our full sympathy at a time when France, Germany and Russia are backing Spain as fully, and almost as openly as they are opposing British efforts for the freedom of foreign trade throughout the world.

"But there is no occasion now to talk of an offensive and defensive alliance. The disproportion between our mission and America's makes one impossible. There will be time to propose this way of re-orienting the race when America is ready to face the splendid responsibilities that entitles."

## IT IS WIDESPREAD.

### STATUS OF THE SMALL POX EPIDEMIC.

Stringent Measures Will Have to be Adopted at Pelham and Spartanburg—It is Not Chickenpox.

[Columbia Evening Record.]

Dr. James Evans, of Florence, Secretary of the State Board of Health, and Dr. J. A. White, of Pelham Mills, are in the city, having come to consult Governor Ellerbo about the smallpox situation at Pelham.

Dr. White has the epidemic at Pelham well under control, there being only about 20 cases in the town. Nearly everybody in the town who has not had the disease has been vaccinated and there is no danger of a further spread there. But out in the country the epidemic has full sway, there being about 300 cases in the Pelham neighborhood.

After consultation with Drs. Evans and White, Governor Ellerbo made three appointments.

S. T. Green, A. R. Richardson and Peter Baot each received a commission appointing him "sanitary inspector in Spartanburg and Greenville Counties in the State of South Carolina at Pelham Mills and vicinity, under and by the authority of the statute in such case made and provided, to be vested with all the powers and duties prescribed by law, said appointment having been made upon the recommendation of the chairman of the state board of health, the appointment to continue in force until revoked."

They will visit every house within a radius of several miles of Pelham and make a careful inspection. Everybody who has not been vaccinated will be vaccinated or compelled to leave the State. There can be no temporizing. If this epidemic is not crushed out, it will spread all over the State and in warm weather may become a most dangerous type.

That has been the case in Alabama where there were thousands and thousands of new cases, as many as 70 new ones being reported daily. The negroes who had the disease, which was of a mild type, would walk the streets when covered with pustules, and the disease was spread far and wide.

Finding themselves helpless to stop the progress of the epidemic, the state health authorities called on the national health authorities to take charge.

Dr. Magruder and some competent assistants went to Alabama and by adopting vigorous methods have got the epidemic under control.

Dr. Evans is satisfied the epidemic in this State is smallpox and not chickenpox. He admits it is smallpox of a very mild type, but insists that it is smallpox just the same. He says chickenpox rarely over attacks a child over five years old.

He dismissed with a smile one expert's theory that the disease was impetigo and not smallpox.

He called attention to the fact that not a single person in South Carolina who has been vaccinated has been attacked with the disease except one man, and his vaccination had taken place thirty years before. He said if the disease were chickenpox, vaccination for smallpox would not render one immune from it, therefore the fact that nobody who has been vaccinated has had the disease is proof that it is not chickenpox, but smallpox.

The only other place in South Carolina where there is smallpox is Spartanburg. In a letter Dr. Evans had just received from Dr. Blake of Spartanburg, it is stated that there are only three cases in the city proper, but there are several cases among the employes of the Arkwright and Bean mill. The operatives in those mills refused to be vaccinated, saying they would rather have the disease.

The rail authorities do not wish to attempt to coerce their operatives into being vaccinated unless it becomes necessary, for the operatives threaten to leave before they will submit to vaccination.

## Senator Tillman Will Speak

### HE WILL TAKE A HAND IN THE COMING STATE CAMPAIGN.

So Says One Who Should Know What is Going on in the World of State Politics Despite War Talk—The May Convention.

[The State, 21st.]

A man well known in politics and one who is in a position to know whereof he speaks, in talking of the outlook for this year's State campaign yesterday said that Senator Tillman had determined to make several speeches in the State during the campaign this year. Of course they will not be delivered at the regular campaign meetings, but at points to be arranged for later. When asked what would be the burden of the speeches, the speaker said that they would be in defense of the dispensary system and the Reform party. It is said that Senator Tillman intends to take a hand on these lines notwithstanding the fact that his elder brother is expected to attack both matters referred to through out the canvass.

The time is rapidly coming for the State political pot to begin boiling, and though the war scare is occupying the attention of the yearner to such an extent that he is at present oblivious to politics, the candidate will soon appear from the bushes and wake him rudely by yelling, "Come on, vote for me." That's the way Stanton puts it, and there's more truth than poetry in it.

The active politicians at present do not appear to be very much afraid of any ticket the Prohibitionists may select on April 11. It is freely said that an attempt will be made to draw factional lines as clearly as can be done. It is taken for granted that Governor Ellerbo, Mr. Archer and Col. George D. Tillman are going to stay in the race to the end, and there is much speculation as to whether Col. R. B. Watson will continue a candidate or not.

All interested say that the campaign will have to open earlier than usual this year on account of the increased number of counties, and not a few are in favor of a start being made about June 1, in order to give ample time for the canvass to be completed without too hard a strain upon the candidates.

The May convention is being looked forward to with much concern by the actual and prospective candidates. It is to select the new State executive committee and do anything else it deems proper. It has the power to make changes in the party constitution. Some have suggested that the campaign scheme could be changed to one meeting in each congressional district, but this has not taken shape as yet.

The ward and precinct Democratic clubs all over the State are to meet on the fourth Saturday in next month for the purpose of reorganizing and electing delegates to the county conventions in the several counties will meet on the first Monday in May. This convention will elect a county executive committee and delegates to the State convention of the party which meets on the third Wednesday in May.

### LEE MAY COMMAND.

President to Appoint Him in Case of War.

Washington, March 17.—Colonel General Lee would become Brigadier General Lee in the United States volunteer army in case of war with Spain, according to his friends here who know the President's warm personal feelings for him and his desire to show it in every possible way. Congress last year removed all disabilities preventing the appointment of Confederates.

### A Problem.

"A man owed \$1 and had but 75 cents. He went to the pawnshop and pawned 75 cents for 50 cents. He met a friend and sold him the pawn ticket calling for 75 cents for 50 cents. He thus had two 50 cent pieces—\$1 in fact—with which he paid his debt. Was anybody out, and how much?"