

The Killing of Ruiz.

Cubans Disclaim Responsibility for It.

New York, Dec. 22.—T. Estrada Palma, of the Cuban Junta, made the following statement last night: "The death of Col. Ruiz did not occur, as the Spanish put it, while he was negotiating as a peace messenger under a flag of truce. Again and again have the Cubans promulgated the law that all who shall come to them with a peace proposition not based on the independence of Cuba should be treated as spies and dealt with accordingly. Col. Ruiz not only knew of the existence of the law, but, according to the Spanish accounts, was personally warned as to his fate. Gen. Blanco and Secretary General Congosto, too, were well aware of the existence of the decree. Nevertheless, these latter took advantage of the unfortunate Quixotism of Col. Ruiz and sent him to the Cuban lines. The blood of Col. Ruiz is not on the hands of the Cubans, but upon the heads of Blanco and Congosto, who sent him to his fate."

PENALTY OF THE LAW.

"If the penalty of the law had not been carried into effect, doubtless Spain would have taken advantage of the fact to show that the Cubans were not in earnest in the rejection of autonomy absolutely, but were willing to listen to arguments. This decree was not promulgated because the Cubans are afraid of disaffection in their ranks, but because it is known that innumerable commissioners would otherwise be sent, and on their return make false statements encouraging the belief that peace might be established on a basis other than independence."

"Such statements would only serve the interest of Spain in gaining time, with the resulting death of thousands, owing to the useless prolongation of the war. Besides, the Cubans are advised that the Spanish are seeking to enter the insurgent lines with the purpose of assassinating the more important leaders. Documentary proof of this fact is in our hands, and we are the more cautious when we remember that in 1879 General Blanco authorized General Polajieff, in Santiago de Cuba, to execute as many unarmed Cubans as the latter thought necessary, as an example."

SPANISH BARBARITY.

"It is somewhat remarkable that with the first news of the death of Colonel Ruiz came the announcement of the killing by the Spanish of over forty sick and wounded Cubans found in a hospital, and not a voice was raised in protest thereat. The shooting of Cuban prisoners by the score passed almost without comment; the thousands of wounded Cuban soldiers slain in hospitals attract but little notice. According to all the laws of civilized warfare, the Cubans from the beginning had the right to retaliation in kind, but they never have done so. On the contrary, all prisoners taken by them were set at liberty and the wounded attended to. We are decried by the entire world as beligerents, and might therefore claim that we have no obligations to conduct the war as beligerents, but we do not intend to take this stand. The conditions obtaining in Cuba and the character of the Spanish demand, however, that we take the necessary measures to speedily terminate the war by convincing the world that independence alone can satisfy us. We accordingly issue a decree and solemnly warn Spain of its oncoming. If, despite this warning, they persuade a man to be rash enough to come to us to treat on the basis of autonomy, we must either acknowledge that our laws are made only to be broken or be compelled by a painful duty to carry them out."

Cubans Stand Firm.

Repudiate the Suggestion of So-Called "Autonomy."

New York, Dec. 20.—Copies of a statement signed by the officers of the Fourth army corps of the Cuban revolutionary army operating in the department of Las Villas, renewing allegiance to the Cuban cause, and forswearing autonomy, was received in this city to-day. This action by the officers of the Las Villas department makes the opposition to autonomy practically unanimous among the Cuban officers. The statement says in part: "We are convinced that the promulgation of reforms is an evidence of weakness on the part of Spain and is in itself a triumph for our arms. Our fighting attitude will continue just as it is to-day until our unfortunate country is made free. "We will accept no other settlement than that based upon absolute independence, which must be agreed to with our government and the assembly of representatives."

Among the signers are Juan Maso Pareca, brigadier general of the First division, and Chixto Garcia, adjutant.

Take JOHNSON'S

CHILL & FEVER

TONIC.

ACTS OF GERMANY AND RUSSIA MAY RESULT IN WAR.

London, Dec. 23.—The Pekin correspondent of the Times says: "The Chinese are provisioning Port Arthur and will reconstruct the forts there, Russia supervising and furnishing the money. In the face of this indication of permanent occupation the necessity of safeguarding our position in the far east increases. The Russo-Chinese bank, which is the agent of the Russian government, has offered to China 120,000 Berdan rifles, with payment five years hence. China has accepted the proposal."

According to a dispatch to the Times from Kobe, Japan, the news from Port Arthur has greatly disturbed the Japanese ministers. Long cabinet councils have been held and the high military officials have attended. The Japanese newspapers, the dispatch says, are non-plussed at the situation in the far east, while the ministry is involved in domestic troubles connected with its taxation proposals, to which the diet is hostile.

The Times, in an editorial on the situation, sarcastically asks whether the German press, in claiming a Russo-German entente in China and Emperor William in his speech at Gaudenz, anticipated Russia's demand for the removal of German drill sergeants from the Chinese army. It adds, with reference to the demand for the dismissal of the Engineers: "Our Pekin correspondent says China is hesitating, and possibly we may be able to appeal to motives at Pekin which will strengthen Chinese disinclination to comply with the Russian request for the dismissal of the Britishers."

With reference to the probability of Russia advancing to China money to pay the war indemnity to Japan and thus compelling Japan to evacuate Wei-Hai-Wei, the Times openly recognizes the advisability of an Anglo-Japanese entente, arguing that the combined British and Japanese fleets would be well able to prevent a disturbance of the balance of power in China.

Other papers express the same opinion.

Vienna, Dec. 22.—The Deutsche Zeitung says: "The United States, which from its geographical position has a greater interest in the opening up of China than all European powers together, cannot possibly consent to its partition or to a division into spheres of influence without having a voice in the matter. It would be a great mistake to underestimate the strength of the United States; and a partition of China would be impossible without America's approval and participation. The European powers will do well to give timely attention to the just aspirations and interests of the United States."

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TONIC.

No Further Protest on Part of Japan.

Washington, Dec. 22.—Minister Hoshi of Japan was in conference with Secretary Sherman at the state department to-day. The state of the Hawaiian negotiations has changed materially since the minister's return from Japan. There is no further protest on the part of the Japanese government to the annexation of the islands, and, indeed, it is asserted that Japan's policy never went to the extent of a positive protest. In any event, that branch of the question is considered closed, and the present purpose of the Japanese authorities is to secure specific assurance from the United States that in case Hawaii is annexed all Japanese interests will be fully protected.

In the last letter Mr. Sherman wrote to Minister Hoshi on the subject of assurance that all Japanese interests in Hawaii would be amply safeguarded. The desire, therefore, is to convert this general assurance into specific guarantees. It is said that this does not include an assurance of the continuance of the existing emigration treaty between Japan and Hawaii, as that is revocable by its terms in six months, and the revocation would apply in case Hawaii became a part of the United States.

There is likely to be considerable difference of opinion and rather prolonged negotiations over the extent of the guarantees to be given Japan.

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TONIC.

A Horse Book Free.

We have a number of Dr. Kendall's "Treatise on the Horse," for distribution to subscribers, as a premium to those who pay in advance. The book contains much valuable information including descriptions of diseases and remedies for same. We will be glad to have our subscribers call and get copies—free to all who pay up.

Washington, December 22.—A delegation of Cherokee Indians, consisting of W. A. Duncan, Simon Walkingstick, David Faulkner, Lacy Hawkins, J. M. Lahy and Shake Manos, is in the city for the purpose of securing a delay in the date at which judicial jurisdiction is to be extended over the Indian Territory, which Act of Congress becomes effective on January 1. Secretary Bliss told the delegation that although the Government had the best interest of the Indians at heart, yet in the present case it could not concede to their wishes. Congress had adjourned for the holidays, and it was impossible to do anything in the line indicated without legislative sanction.

Mr. Geo. W. Vanderbilt, of Biltmore, N. C., fame, has insured his life for \$1,000,000, and started on a trip through Europe and India.

There is no reason why the next session of the Legislature should last longer than three weeks. It can easily finish its business in that time—if it will work from the start.

Why take Johnson's Chill & Fever Tonic? Because it cures the most stubborn case of Fever in ONE DAY.

Atlantic Coast Line.

North-Eastern R. R. of S. C.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: Dated Dec. 20, 1897, No. 35, No. 23, No. 53, A.M., P.M., Le. Florence, Ar. Kingstree, Ar. Lanes, Le. Lanes, Ar. Char'l'n.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: No. 78, No. 32, No. 52, A.M., P.M., Le. Char'l'n, Ar. Lanes, Le. Lanes, Ar. Kingstree, Ar. Florence.

*Daily, †Daily except Sunday. No. 52 runs through to Columbia via Central R. R. of S. C.

Trains Nos. 78 and 32 run via Wilson and Fayetteville—Short Line—and make close connection for all points North. Trains on C. & D. E. R. leave Florence 9:55 a. m., arrive Darlington 10:25 a. m., Cheraw 11:40 a. m., Wadesboro 2:25 p. m., leave Florence, daily except Sunday, 8:15 p. m., arrive Darlington 8:40 p. m., Hartsville 9:35 p. m., Bennettsville 9:35 p. m., Gibson 10:00 p. m., leave Florence, Sunday only 9:55 a. m., arrive Darlington 10:27 a. m., Hartsville 11:10 a. m., leave Gibson daily except Sunday 6:15 a. m., Bennettsville 6:41 a. m., arrive Darlington 7:40 a. m., leave Hartsville daily except Sunday, 8:45 a. m., arrive Darlington 7:30 a. m., leave Darlington 9:00 a. m., arrive Florence 9:25 a. m., leave Wadesboro, daily except Sunday 3:00 p. m., Cheraw 5:15 p. m., Darlington 6:29 p. m., Florence 7:00 p. m., leave Hartsville, Sunday only 8:20 a. m., Darlington 9:05 a. m., arrive Florence 9:25 a. m. J. R. KENLY, JNO. F. DIVINE, Gen'l Manager, Gen'l Sup't, T. M. EMERSON, Traffic Manager.

Atlantic Coast Line.

MANCHESTER AND AUGUSTA R. R.

Condensed schedule—in effect Dec 20, 1897.

TRAINS GOING SOUTH.

Table with columns: No. 35 No. 137, A. M., P. M., Lv Darlington, Lv Elliott, Ar Sumter, Ar Creston, Ar Orangeburg, Ar Denmark.

TRAINS GOING NORTH.

Table with columns: No. 136 No. 32, A. M., P. M., Lv Denmark, Lv Orangeburg, Ar Prezalls, Ar Creston, Lv Creston, Ar Sumter, Lv Sumter, Ar Elliott, Ar Darlington.

*Daily, †Daily except Sunday. Trains 32 and 35 carry through Pullman Palace Buffet Sleeping Cars between New York and Macon via Augusta.

T. M. Emerson, Traffic Manager, H. M. Emerson, Gen. Pass. Agt., J. R. Kenley, Gen'l Manager.

DON'T PASS!

Two stores, Main and Liberty, well filled with

Staple and Fancy Groceries, in any sized package. Large supply of

TOYS, FANCY GOODS, APPLES, ORANGES, NUTS, RAISINS AND FIRE WORKS.

Bought at the lowest market price and to be sold at a close margin. Candies from six cents to 80 cents a pound. Your patronage appreciated by MOSES GREEN. Telephone No. 58. Dec 15-2w

BABY'S SMOOTH, FAIR SKIN

A Grateful Mother Writes this Letter—

Tells all about Her Troubles when Baby Broke out with Scrofula Sores. "At the age of two months, my baby began to have sores break out on his right cheek. We used all the external applications that we could think or hear of, to no avail. The sores spread all over one side of his face. We consulted a physician and tried his medicine, and in a week the sore was gone. But to my surprise in two weeks more another scrofulous looking sore appeared on baby's arm. It grew worse and worse, and when he was three months old, I began giving him Hood's Sarsaparilla. I also took Hood's Sarsaparilla, and before the first bottle was finished, the sores were well and have never returned. He is now four years old, but he has never had any sign of those scrofulous sores since he was cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla, for which I feel very grateful. My boy owes his good health and smooth, fair skin to this great medicine." MRS. S. S. WROXEN, Farmington, Delaware. Get only Hood's.

are prompt, efficient and easy in effect. 25 cents.

NOTICE TO FARM RENTERS.

ONLY HORSE, TWO HORSE OR three horse farm of excellent land, with good comfortable quarters, can be rented for 1898. Apply to or address, S. G. SPANN, Dec. 22.—2t. Sumter, S. C.

TAX RETURNS FOR 1898.

OFFICE OF COUNTY AUDITOR SUMTER COUNTY. SUMTER, S. C., Nov. 24, 1897.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I will attend, in person or by deputy, at the following places on the days indicated respectively, for the purpose of receiving returns of Real Estate, Personal Property, and Poll Taxes for the fiscal year commencing January 1st, 1898:

At office Sumter, S. C., from Jan. 1st to Feb. 20th, 1898, inclusive. Tindale, Tuesday, January 4th. J. M. Moseley's, Wednesday, January 5th. Wedgefield, Thursday, January 6th. Stateburg, Friday, January 7th. Hagood, Saturday, January 8th. Rembert's Store, Monday, January 10th. Smithville, Tuesday, January 11th. Mannville, Wednesday, January 12th. Bishopville, Thursday and Friday, January 13th and 14th. Magnolia, Saturday, Jan. 15th. Lynchburg, Monday, Jan. 17th. Norwood's Cross Roads, Tuesday, Jan. 18th. Shiloh, Wednesday, Jan. 19th. J. M. McElveen's Store, Thursday, Jan. 20th.

Myersville, Friday, Jan. 21st. Gordon's Mill, Saturday, Jan. 22nd. Gahards Cross Roads, Monday, Jan. 30th. Bossard, Tuesday, Jan. 27th.

The law requires that all persons owning property or in any wise having charge of such property, either as agent, husband, guardian, trustee, executor or administrator, etc., return the same under oath to the Auditor, who requests all persons to be prompt in making their returns and save the 50 per cent. penalty which will be added to the property valuation of all persons who fail to make returns within the time prescribed by law. Tax payers return what they own on the first day of January, 1898.

Assessor and taxpayers will enter the first given name of the taxpayer in full, also make a separate return for each Township where the property is located and also in each and every case the No. of the School District must be given.

Every male citizen between the age of twenty-one and sixty years on the first day of January, 1898, except those incapable of earning a support from being maimed or from other causes, are deemed taxable Polls, and except Confederate Soldiers 50 years of age, on Jan. 1st, 1898. All returns must be made on or before the 20th day of February next. I cannot take returns after that date and all returns made after the 20th day of February are subject to a penalty of 50 per cent. J. DIGGS WILDER, Auditor Sumter County.

Ohio River & Charleston Railway Co.

SAMUEL HUNT, Agent for Purchaser. In effect October 18, 1897. CAROLINAS DIVISION.

N. C. Ex. Fast Frgt.

Table with columns: Lv Charleston, Lv Branchville, Lv Kingville, Lv Columbia, Lv Augusta, Lv Camden, Lv Kershaw, Lv Lancaster, Lv Catawba Junction, Lv Rock Hill, Lv Yorkville, Lv Blacksburg, Lv Shelly, Lv Henrietta, Lv Forest City, Lv Rutherfordton, Ar Marion, Lv Blacksburg, Ar Gaffney.

Table with columns: Lv Gaffney, Lv Blacksburg, Lv Marion, Lv Rutherfordton, Lv Forest City, Lv Henrietta, Lv Shelly, Ar Blacksburg, Lv Blacksburg, Lv Yorkville, Lv Catawba Junction, Lv Lancaster, Ar Kershaw, Ar Camden, Ar Augusta, Lv Kingville, Lv Branchville, Ar Charleston.

Dinner at Kershaw. For further information as to rates, Clyde Line sailings, etc., call on local, contracting and traveling agents, of both roads, or L. A. Emerson, Traffic Manager, S. C. & G. R. R., Charleston, S. C. E. F. Gray, Traffic Manager, S. B. Lumpkin, Gen. Frt. Agt., O. R. & C. R. R., Blacksburg, S. C.

Claremont Lodge No. 64 A. F. M.

THE REGULAR MONTHLY COMMUNICATION of Claremont Lodge, No. 44, A. F. M., will be held on Thursday Evening, Jan. 6th, at 7 1/2 p. m. Brethren will take due notice and govern themselves accordingly. L. S. CARSON, W. M. Attest—H. C. MOSES, Sec.

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Two Minutes Walk From Central Depot. Chattanooga, Tenn. July 29.



BEAUTY HATH CHARMS

and all the charms which beauty likes best to don are shown in our grand display of fashionable jewelry for this season. Jewels like these would enhance the charms of the most fascinating belle, and surely no fair one would despise such brilliant aids to her beauty. Like personal loveliness, they conquer admiration on sight; they score new victories at every inspection. Those who look over our stock do not willingly stop with examination. Beauty may now be made easily irresistible by a few judicious purchases from our display of up to date jewelry.

L. W. FOLSOM, Jeweler and Optician, SIGN OF THE BIG WATCH, Oct. 16.

Order Your PROVISIONS AND GROCERIES FROM

GEO. W. STEFFENS & SON Wholesale Agents, Charleston, S C Agents for

MOTT'S CIDER RED SEAL CIGARS, AND DOVE HAMS

HOLIDAY GOODS.

Dressing SETS. We have only a few of the best goods in this line.

Manicure SETS. German Silver, "Cosmoen," pure Aluminum—these goods are guaranteed unchangeable.

GLOVE AND Handkerchief BOXES. In Manicure Sets, we have leather goods, of the very best make in both cases and instruments.

Jewelry Boxes.

PERFUMERY.

VIOLETS OF SICILY. You all know what these odors are. We have it put up in fancy packages for presents.

BLUE LILIES. This is the only place that you will find these goods in town.

CUT BOTTLES. BEST PERFUMES. ALL SIZES. Elegant cut bottles for Christmas gifts, containing the best extracts. The perfume is worth more than we ask for all.

SMOKER'S ARTICLES.

FINE FRENCH BRIAR PIPES, Gold and silver mounted Pipes make handsome gifts.

Amber Bits.

J. F. W. DeLORME,

Pharmacist and Prescription Specialist SUMTER, S. C.

Take Pine Tar Cough Balm for Coughs and Colds. Nov 17

A. WHITE & SON, Fire Insurance Agency.

ESTABLISHED 1866. Represent, among other Companies: LIVERPOOL & LONDON & GLOBE, NORTH BRITISH & MERCANTILE HOME, of New York. UNDERWRITERS' AGENCY, N. Y. LANCASTER INSURANCE CO. Capital represented \$75,000,000. Feb 28

TO SUFFERING HUMANITY.

THE MEDICIN CHALYBEATE SPRING. Located at Dunbar, S. C., is now the attraction of sufferers from Indigestion, Dyspepsia, Rheumatic affections, Kidney Troubles, Bright's Disease, Dropsy, Catarrh and all skin diseases, from the fact, wherever the water has been used for these diseases, it has relieved, and when used sufficiently, it has cured.

It is being used for all the diseases mentioned above, all over the country. This water has been analyzed by Prof. M. B. Hardin, South Carolina State Chemist, and found to contain the following medicinal properties:

Table with columns: Sodium Carbonate 893, Potassium Carbonate 274, Calcium Carbonate 571, Magnesium Carbonate 344, Iron Carbonate (Ferrous) 1.411, Manganese Carbonate Trace, Copper Carbonate Trace, Potassium Sulphate 0.41, Sodium Chloride 1.347, Alumina Trace, Silica 2.391

Ammonia .02 parts per million. Albumenoid Ammonia .08

We have glowing testimonials from people all over the country, and from people in your own town. Among them the Rev. C. C. Brown, A. W. Crosswell, F. B. Grier, et al., if you are suffering, and want relief, and cure, come and see me. I am here to supply you this water, and take your orders, or to make arrangements with you for visiting the Spring, where simple accommodations are to be had, at low prices. J. E. WILSON, Sumter, S. C. Dec 15-3m