

The Carleton Sentinel.

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WHOLE No. 3235

CUBAN LETTER

FROM DR. KIRKPATRICK.

Havana, Cuba, June 5th '09.

DEAR SENTINEL.—The career of Spain, both at home and abroad, probably furnishes the most dramatic reading that is to be found in history, and in this, the last of her once proud possessions in the New World, she has left a record such as is not to be equalled in fiction.

It may indicate a morbid spirit in one who takes an interest in studying or reading the darker side of the history of a country, but there are some events the evidences of which so force themselves on ones notice that it is impossible to escape them. I have been struck with the distinct dividing line there is between the Cuban and the Spaniard and have been able to see some of the causes which led up to the Cuban revolution and the final intervention of the United States in the cause of Cuba. There are old wounds here among the Cubans such as time can never heal and some things are recorded which are almost incredible.

Standing in a beautiful spot overlooking the harbour and directly opposite the most popular square and driveway in the city is a section of an old stone wall which is all that remains of a building that once stood there. A panel set in the wall contains in Spanish eight names and the following inscription:

On the 27th of November, 1871, there were sacrificed in front of this place, by the Spanish Volunteers of Havana, the eight young Cuban students of the First Year of Medicine.

To their eternal memory, this tablet is dedicated, the 27th of November, 1899.

In the bronze wreath beneath is inscribed "Innocent." Their Comrades, May 20, 1902.

In a history of Havana which I have before me the facts of the case are recorded and probably it might be of interest to read the record as it is given. I might add that I have passed this spot about every day and have also seen the monument in Colon Cemetery.

"It was the rule in Cuba that all officers—civil, military and ecclesiastic were filled by Spaniards born in Spain. Even the Cuban-born sons of Spanish parents were disqualified from holding office. The children of the first generation were counted Cubans, not Spaniards, and the old saying ran, "A Spaniard can do anything in Cuba except raise a Spaniard son." The natives of Spain were called Peninsulars and the feeling between the two was bitter. The Peninsulars organized themselves into a militia corps of volunteers commonly known as "Spanish Volunteers," answering to the National Guard of the United States. In 1872 the Corps numbered 80,000 men. Their duties were to guard towns and public property, suppress disorder and when occasion demanded to fight

Cuban insurgents.

"In 1871, when the Ten Year's War (1868-78) was in progress, there was printed in Havana a paper called "The Voice of Cuba." Its editor, Gonzalo Castanon, a Colonel of the Volunteers, published some derogatory remarks concerning Cuban women. The calumny aroused intense indignation among the outraged Cubans. Castanon was challenged to fight a duel, and in an encounter with a Cuban was killed, and was buried in one of the dove cote like tombs of the Espada Cemetery. A party of students of the Medical School of the University of Havana were one day visiting the cemetery, and while near the tomb of Castanon, one of them said something which reflected upon the dead Colonel of Volunteers. A Spanish soldier overheard the remark and repeated it to a Spanish judge, with a further accusation that the students had defaced the glass which closed the Castanon tomb. Forty-three of the students were arrested, charged with the offence, and brought to trial before a court martial. They were defended by a Spanish officer, Capdevilla, and by his eloquence and the clear evidence of their innocence, were acquitted. The result of the trial enraged the Volunteers, and they obtained from the Captain-General an order for the assembling of a second court martial, two thirds of the members of which should be volunteers. The boys were a second time arrested and a second time put in jeopardy of their lives. After a trial which was a farce, all the accused were declared guilty. Eight of them, mere boys, the oldest sixteen years, was chosen by lot to be shot. The rest were sentenced to imprisonment at hard labor. The father of one of the boys condemned to death, who possessed an immense fortune, in vain offered all his wealth as a ransom for his son's life. On November 27th, 1871, in the presence of 15,000 Spanish Volunteers under arms, the boys were executed on this spot.

"The affair created intense indignation everywhere; the Spanish Cortes investigated the case and formally pronounced the students guiltyless. Some years after a son of Castanon came to Cuba from Spain for his father's remains. He was attended at the tomb by a notary public, before whom he made a declaration, as the result of his examination then, that the tomb had never been disturbed. In 1888 the Student's Monument in memory of the martyred boys was provided by popular subscription, and is now one of the chief adornments of the Colon Cemetery.

I did not expect Mr Editor that what I have written and copied would have taken so much room and for that reason I will not trespass further on your valuable space.

Knoxford.

As I have seen no items from this place, I thought I would write a few. On Friday evening, April 2nd, Beverly Smith surprised the young people by a candy party, as it was the first of the season. It was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Wilmot Lawrence raised his new barn last week. Tell you boys it pays to be long headed at a barn raising. Pearl McGrath is spending a few weeks with her sister at Blaine, Me. We are glad to see our friend, Miss Toms, ably supported by a Long staff this spring.

One of our couples seem to be hanging back lately. Undoubtedly they are running a bluff. Miss Ora Trafford returned from Presque Isle last week.

Miss Bessie Knox of Me., is visiting her friend, Mrs A Bartley. Harley Margison has purchased a new driving horse. We understand the drivers name is Pearl.

Look out Ed that Gray Dora don't take you to the wrong house some night.

We are glad to see the smiling face of our old friend, Mrs Jas Gallupe, around once more.

The gray bird still makes his trips. That's too old to talk about now.

I wonder who got left the night of the candy party. Not for Joe, oh dear no.

G W Jamieson and family started for Vancouver, B.C. on Thursday last. They will be much missed. All join in wishing them a happy and prosperous sojourn in the far west.

Our sabbath school has reopened this spring under the careful instructions of Whitfield Gallupe.

Wilmot Estey purchased a new horse recently.

Boys when you ask a girl to go for a drive and she says no, don't stop to ask why. Ha, ha, ha.

We are sorry to hear Mr George Willhear has forgot the good vows and promises, and I might say his religious vows and many blessings so far as to fight one of his neighbors. Hope he will see his mistakes and write them.

If I see this in print I'll write again.

LAD FOR FUN.

Picnic at Debec.

On July the 9th our neighbors to the south will celebrate the Glorious 4th of the Catholic church grounds at Debec Junction. Do not forget the date, Monday, July 5th. Only one fare to the grounds and four trains will take patrons there and stop or back up to take them away. Dinner and supper served at moderate prices; and all the games and amusements by which one might pass a pleasant day will be found there. Dancing, horse-awing, etc, etc. This will be your opportunity to meet friends and even relatives that you may not have seen for several years. Father Murphy whom many of you know is the pastor and you may be certain he will make you at home and at ease.

Lindsay.

There is to be a school picnic held Friday, June 25th, on the old picnic grounds just below Mr Harry Briggs. A short programme will be rendered. All are cordially invited.

Teacher.

The Valley Railway.

At the meeting of the provincial government a committee was appointed to meet the Valley Railway Company and the Dominion government and discuss the construction of this much talked of railway. Ever since he has been in politics Mr Hazen has described the Valley railway as a political bugaboo which was trotted out to serve a purpose in every campaign. This is also how he described the railway when Hon Mr Pugsley introduced a bill authorizing the government of New Brunswick to guarantee the bonds of any company constructing the railway as a part of a transcontinental system to the extent of \$15,000 a mile. While he remained a member of the provincial government, Mr Pugsley made every effort within his power to have Messrs Mackenzie & Mann undertake the construction of the road. At his request they sent an exploration party over the whole route of the proposed railway and inspected the plans prepared for the Transcontinental commission of a portion of the route. This survey has been made for the commission as the result of the agitation of Mr F B Carvell, M P, in parliament. Messrs MacKenzie & Mann after considering the whole question decided that the bond guarantee would have to be increased before they could enter on the work.

This was the position of affairs when the Robinson government was defeated and Mr Hazen became premier. So far as the public know Mr Hazen's government made no effort to secure the construction of the railway. An agitation was started in Fredericton and Woodstock originally to secure the construction of a railway on a western side of the St John between the capital and the shiretown of Carleton. This scheme was enlarged to comprise the construction of a railway to connect with the Transcontinental which meant a line from Westfield to St Leonards for which the Dominion government at the request of the government of New Brunswick had provided the most liberal subsidy given to any railroad. Finally a delegation appeared before the New Brunswick government and asked that government to guarantee the bonds of the company constructing this railway to the extent of \$25,000 a mile. Mr Hazen side stepped this request by telling the delegation to go to Ottawa and ask that the proposed railway be managed as a part of the Intercolonial system. At the time he made this suggestion he also said that a company not having any connection with any railroad now in the province had made overtures to the government of New Brunswick respecting the construction of the Valley railway. He did not say what the nature of these overtures was or how far negotiations had progressed. At the time he suggested that the delegation should proceed to Ottawa Mr Hazen was thoroughly conversant with the fact that the work of the parliament of Canada was so far advanced that it was unlikely that so large a project as the Valley railway could be taken up.

He was also aware that the Minister of Railways had announced a new programme for the management of the Intercolonial railway which precluded his suggestion being considered during the present year. The delegation went to Ottawa, taking with them Provincial Secretary Flemming, who displayed such unusual interest in the Valley railway that he traveled to Montreal with Sir William Van Horne in his private car and never saw any of the delegation until they reached Ottawa. Then he did not display any marked enthusiasm concerning the Valley railway. Sir Wilfrid Laurier and Hon Mr Pugsley met the delegation and showed such a warm interest in the project that the delegation made a second trip to Fredericton and asked the government of New Brunswick to announce its policy. This Mr Hazen promised to do, but as day after day passed and no announcement was made the promoters of the railway got anxious and made a third visit to Fredericton, only to learn from Mr Hazen a few minutes before prorogation took place, that while he had promised a definite statement as to what the government would do, he had decided to wait a time before doing so.

It was this weak attitude on his part that has displeased the people of York and Carleton counties. Coupled with the attitude of the Provincial Secretary at Ottawa they thought they saw the equivalent of a refusal on the part of Mr Hazen and his colleagues to have anything to do with the Valley railway. The project is one of the highest importance to one-third the population

of the province. To carry it forward to completion means a large expenditure and corresponding benefits to those who live along the route. To attempt to throw the responsibility for his own weakness and lack of courage to deal with a great issue on the Dominion government does not place Mr Hazen in a favorable light before the people of the province. And his action in appointing a committee to interview the Dominion government will not improve his standing with these same people. What does Mr Hazen expect from his interview? Is he in a position to say to the Dominion government what aid he will give the railway, or does he merely hope that the Dominion government will give him such an answer that he will be able to crawl out of the hole his own weakness has put him in? What new feature to submit to Sir Wilfrid Laurier? More particularly who compose this mysterious company willing to undertake the construction of the Valley railway?

Patrick J. Mulherin.

Much sympathy was expressed in this community on learning the sad news of the death of Patrick J Mulherin which took place at his home in Winn, Maine, on Friday morning, June 4th. He was taken ill some weeks ago with pneumonia but had partially recovered when he was taken again with typhoid fever which proved fatal. Deceased was about sixty years of age and a blacksmith by trade. A sorrowing wife, three sons, James and Charlie who are married and living in Winn, Linus, and one daughter Ella May at home, are left to mourn the great loss of a kind husband and loving father. Two brothers, Michael of St Thomas and Dennis of Witapitlock Me, also survive. The funeral took place on Sunday morning; requiem high mass was celebrated by Rev Father Hayes in the church of the Sacred Heart, Winn, Me, and the body was interred in its last resting place. Mr Mulherin was born in St Thomas and has many friends who will learn of his death with regret. To Mrs Mulherin and family the sincerest sympathy of this community is extended. What seems particularly sad and strange is the fact that just one week previously his brother Chas passed away of the same disease, at his home in Howland, Me.

May their souls rest in peace, and God comfort the bereaved families.—Com.

In memory of Patrick J Mulherin, who died at his home in Winn, Me, June 4th, 1909.

In the home and by the fireside.

There is now a vacant chair. A place is vacant in our home, Which never can be filled.

Oh, father dear, the home seems lonely,

Seems no comfort now can dwell, Thou no more will join our number. Thou no more our sorrows know.

Dearest father thou has left us, And thy loss we deeply feel, But 'tis God that has bereft us, He can all our sorrows heal.

Yet again we hope to meet thee When the day of life is fled, When in Heaven with joy to greet thee,

Where no farewell tear is shed.

We miss thee from our home, dear father,

We miss thee from thy place, A shadow o'er our life is cast, We miss the sunshine of thy face.

We miss thy kind and willing hand, Thy fond and earnest care, Our home is dark without thee, father We miss thee everywhere.

H E M.

HOT WEATHER MONTHS KILL LITTLE CHILDREN

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Board of Works Jan 07

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A TIP

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