

News Review of Current Events the World Over

Cuban Revolution Collapsing After Bloody Battle at Gibara—Oil Wells of East Texas Are Closed Down.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD



Gen. Menocal.

WHEN Gen. Mario Menocal and Col. Carlos Mendota were captured by the Cuban government troops and locked up in Cienfuegos fortress, it appeared to observers on the island that the revolution had collapsed. Indeed, President Machado started off the week with the announcement that the revolt was over, that the rebels were surrendering everywhere and that there would be peace throughout Cuba within a few days. The most important of the remaining leaders were said to be in Santa Clara province with rather small bands of followers. Aviators were sent out to fly over rebel territory dropping leaflets announcing that Machado would grant amnesty to all who surrendered immediately.

But the revolutionists had not yet reached the end of their resources. A filibustering expedition landed men from half a dozen countries and quantities of arms and ammunition at Gibara, near the eastern end of the island, and that port was captured and fortified. The government immediately moved against this force, and there followed one of the bloodiest battles ever fought in Cuba. The gunboat *Patra* destroyed the Gibara fortress and a land army inflicted a crushing defeat on the rebel troops and the filibusters. Meanwhile planes dropped bombs on the town, which was badly shattered. It was reported that about 500 revolutionists were killed and that the federal casualties were heavy.

Lifting of the censorship revealed that the rebels also had suffered severely in these engagements in Santa Clara province.

Despite these defeats, the revolutionary leaders still at large were insistent that their cause was not lost. General Menocal managed to smuggle out of his cell a proclamation urging his followers to continue the struggle, and there were indications that Machado's troubles were not over by any means. In Washington, though the State department would make no comment on the situation, it was the general opinion of officials that the only way Machado can prevent renewed uprisings is to enact speedily the reforms along democratic lines that his administration promised. Certainly the American government hopes he will adopt this course, for it has no desire to intervene in the affairs of the island republic and will not do so unless developments bring on a state of virtual anarchy there.

POLITICAL observers in Illinois saw, in the latest episode of the Frank L. Smith case, indication that the man who was elected to the United States senate by Illinois and was twice denied a seat in the upper house because of Samuel Insull's contributions to his campaign fund, might seek again to represent his state in the senate. What has happened is that Mr. Smith has made public the fact that Julius Rosenwald, Chicago financier, between the primary and the election of 1926, offered him stock in Sears, Roebuck & Co., then worth \$555,000, to withdraw from the Republican nomination. Mr. Rosenwald is too ill to be interviewed but his intimate friends admit the truth of the story and uphold the purity of the financier's motives in thus seeking harmony within the Republican party.



F. L. Smith.

Mr. Smith, at his residence in Dwight, said: "I did not issue the statement for political purposes. If I intended to use it for such, I would have used it in my two campaigns for the senate and again last year. I issued it because others saw fit to write a book about the case and because they did not give the people all the facts. "As to my future action politically, I shall be governed by conditions."

TEXAS has taken its stand beside Oklahoma in the fight against ruinously low prices for crude oil, and it was expected that Kansas also would adopt measures for curtailment of production. The net result, it was believed, would be higher prices for midcontinent crude oil and possibly

the stabilization of the American oil industry.

Following action by the legislature, Gov. Ross S. Sterling ordered the complete shutdown of the 1,600 producing oil and gas wells of the great east Texas area, and then sent about a thousand National Guardsmen into four counties to enforce the order, martial law being proclaimed. No resistance was met, the larger companies closing their wells before the soldiers arrived.

Governor Sterling, himself an oil man, predicted higher crude prices and estimated the Texas and Oklahoma shutdowns would take about one million barrels a day off the market. He said martial law in east Texas will not be lifted until the state railroad commission has issued prorating orders.

Governor Murray of Oklahoma, who originated the idea of dealing with overproduction by declaring martial law, sent a message of congratulation to the Texas executive.

Most of the operators in the oil regions planned to care for employees during the shut down period. Drilling was continued as usual for there was no ban on bringing in new wells provided they were shut down immediately.



R. T. O'Neil.

DR. HENRY Pritchett, president emeritus of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, in the annual report of the foundation makes the bold assertion that the leaders of the American Legion "intend to raid the treasury of the United States." And he questions the patriotism of war veterans who ask pensions or bonuses when uninjured. Under the subheading "Patriotism, Pensions and Politics," Doctor Pritchett says:

"There has come about in our country a complex of patriotism, bonus seeking, and politics the like of which can be found in no other nation on earth. Organizations that started in pure patriotism have lent themselves to pension lobbying on such a form as to demoralize both the veterans and congress."

"Erroneous and unfair" is what Ralph T. O'Neil, national commander of the American Legion, says of the Pritchett statement, adding:

"The American Legion never has in the past or, in my opinion, never will in the future, ask anything that is unfair or that will place an unjust financial burden on the country."

He says the real objective of the veterans' organization has been to get disability compensation, but that it never has asked a pension for able-bodied men.

RECURRING reports that President Hoover would call a special session of congress to deal with the unemployment situation were declared at the White House to be without foundation. The President feels, too, that it is unnecessary to call congress earlier than December to organize in time to consider the reparations-war debt plan. He believes this can be handled in the regular session.

The President appointed Walter S. Gifford, president of the American Telegraph and Telephone company, head of a national organization which will be charged with the task of mobilizing national, state and local relief agencies of every kind in meeting the unemployment crisis during the coming winter.

Jouett Shouse, executive chairman of the Democratic national committee, came out with a statement demanding of President Hoover "more positive action and less theoretical investigation." He asserted that the President is spending more time ascertaining how many persons will be out of work next winter than he is in taking measures for their relief.

FROM a preliminary treasury statement is derived the unpleasant information that the government suffered a drop of more than \$300,000,000 in internal revenue collections during the fiscal year 1931, the first full year during which taxes were effected by the economic depression and the falling stock market. Total collections for that year were \$2,428,228,700. Income taxes yielded \$1,880,040,400, a decline of \$550,000,000, while miscellaneous internal revenue accounted for collections of \$568,188,200, a drop of \$61,698,246.

Corporation income taxes netted the government \$1,023,292,000; a decline of \$237,021,700, and individual taxes \$831,647,700, a decrease of \$133,185,500, reflecting the depressed conditions in the business world and the wide variations of collections in times of prosperity and in times of depression.

While both corporation and individual income taxes were eating a deep swath in government revenues, miscellaneous taxes showed only a small loss despite the business slump.

QUITE recently Rafael Largo y Herrera, noted Peruvian political leader and former minister of foreign affairs, arrived from Lima by airplane. He has now been nominated for the presidency of Peru by the Economist party, and it is said stands an excellent chance of being elected. So Señor Largo started back home the other day to participate in the elections, and again he traveled by the air route. He thus was the first passenger to make a round trip by plane between Peru and New York.



Rafael Largo.

During his brief visit to this country he spent a day or so in Washington, where he has many friends and admirers.

THERE cannot be any general revival of prosperity until the nations of Europe settle their political disputes and the German reparations have been revised. Such is the opinion of the Wiggin committee of international bankers at Basel which was appointed to study Germany's financial needs and capabilities. The German government was greatly encouraged by the report, and one of its officials said that a new conference of finances, politics and reparations must be called immediately and that all Europe hoped it would be called by President Hoover.

JOHN E. BAKER, American relief expert and adviser to the Chinese railway ministry, sends word that the flood in the Yangtze valley is China's most terrible disaster in the present century. About thirty million people have lost their homes and a third of them are destitute. The loss of life, already terrific, was increased when a great dike protecting part of Hankow gave way and several hundred persons were drowned. Typhoid, cholera and dysentery are epidemic, and industry is paralyzed. All foreigners were reported safe.

The Chinese government has made an offer to the federal farm board for part of its surplus wheat to help feed the refugees, and the idea is favorably considered by officials in Washington.



M. Waldemaras.

ONCE mighty but now fallen like many another, Prof. Augustinas Waldemaras, former dictator of Lithuania, was put on trial before a court martial at Kaunas on charges of plotting a revolt a year ago to overthrow the present joint dictatorship of President Anthony Smetona and Premier Jonas Tubelius. Twenty-four of his followers were his fellow defendants. The plot was betrayed to the authorities by several of Waldemaras' adherents, all members of the Iron Wolf organization, and it was expected their testimony would result in severe sentences for those accused. Professor Waldemaras, who returned to Kaunas from his place of exile near Memel to attend the trial, said the charges were exaggerated, which sounds like a weak defense. There won't be any sympathy for him in Poland, for when he was in power he was the bitter foe of that country and of its dictator, Marshal Pilsudski.

DEVELOPMENTS in the New York legislative investigation of the administration of New York city may bring about a political feud between Governor Roosevelt and Tammany Hall that would have a decided effect on the governor's chances for the Democratic Presidential nomination. Some of his friends believe a break with Tammany might help rather than hinder his cause in that matter and would bring him support from other states where the leading Democrats have been holding aloof from the Roosevelt boom because of fear that he was too closely allied with Tammany. These friends think that even if Tammany should turn hostile, Roosevelt could carry New York state against Mr. Hoover unless there should be a great improvement in the economic situation within a year.

Leading members of Tammany would not discuss for publication their attitude toward Roosevelt because the Tammany policy apparently is to avoid an open break with the governor so long as he has the state patronage at his disposal and remains a decided Presidential possibility. (© 1931, Western Newspaper Union.)

FOOCHOW COMING BACK



Crowded Shipping on the Min River at Foochow.

(Prepared by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D. C.)

FOOCHOW, which once ranked among the tea ports of the world and then, two decades ago, bowed to Ceylon and Japan, is staging a comeback.

The steep slopes of Fukien province, of which Foochow is capital and leading city, again are covered with thriving tea bushes; big-batted men, women and children throng the plantations, picking tea leaves from dawn to dusk; tea-laden porters form an almost endless parade from the plantation to the tea warehouses, and boats on the Min piled with packages of tea recall the days when Yankee clipper ships cleared Foochow with cargoes of fragrant leaves, destined to American teapots.

Foochow port is really not in the city's suburbs. The nearest gate in the city's five-mile, vine-clad wall is more than three miles from the north bank of the Min, about 34 miles from the sea.

Few travelers visit Foochow. To reach the port, one must go by boat, for railroads and good roads are not to be found in this region. Ocean-going vessels from Shanghai and Hong Kong make regular trips up the Min which penetrates the Chinese coast opposite the north end of Taiwan (Formosa). The vessels may steam up the river as far as Pagoda Anchorage. There passengers are transferred to launches which, after nine miles of dodging matting-covered sampans and grotesquely carved, high-pooped junks, deposit their human cargo at the city's suburban docks. If one wants to "go native," however, he may board a native boat with the owners' family, fowls, dogs and pigs and travel in the unwesternized atmosphere of the Min.

The river's obstruction at Pagoda Anchorage is artificial, formed when stone-laden barges were sunk there to prevent a French fleet from reaching the city during the Franco-Foochow troubles in 1884. It is the characteristic of the Chinese love for things as they are that Foochow business men have waited so long to take steps to clear the channel and thus avoid the endless annoyance of re-loading of cargoes.

From River to City.

The journey from the river to the city may be made by bus, jinrikisha or sedan chair. Frequently travelers prefer to be landed on the south side of the river where they get a glimpse of the most modern portion of Foochow—the foreign settlement. On a small hill are foreign consulates, western churches, hospitals and handsome residences which constitute a community almost independent of the Chinese city, while below is a business district with streets lined with foreign and native-owned shops where eastern and western merchandise is on display. Commodious clubs, wide sweeps of grassy lawns dotted with flowering gardens, a race track, tennis courts and pleasure craft on the Min tend to keep the small foreign population contented.

The visitor should not hurry into Foochow proper, even if he could, for to do so would be to miss the physical beauties and fabled history that accentuate each step of the journey from the ocean to the port. Along the Min one may see pearl divers. Should a diver be drowned his fellows stoically conclude that he has fallen a victim to the sea-turtle, Chinese equivalent for the legendary sea-serpent of the West.

Near Pagoda Anchorage rises Sharp peak, capped by a tower built by a wife to welcome home an oriental Enoch Arden who, when he saw it, thought he had mistaken the river, and sailed away again, never to return. A mandarin's footprint in a rock commemorates the summary punishment

of quarrymen who kept right on chipping away its companion footprint, despite the flow of blood that spurted out at each stroke. When removed to a place in a bridge it registered a protest by kicking its bearers into the river, so the companion was not molested.

Inside the Foochow wall a few modern schools and government buildings have punctuated an otherwise low, flat sky line of rather dingy buildings. Telegraph keys click in telegraph offices, electric lights are available to those who can afford them, a few automobiles may be seen on the main streets, and western fashions vie with those of the Orient.

But if the traveler steps into a Foochow side street, he steps into an era several centuries past. Streets that twist and turn and come to abrupt stops were marked features of Foochow's early city planners. For example, the tortuous route of one street might be visualized by drawing a diagram. It begins by running eastward and then northward, eastward, northward, eastward, northward, eastward, southward, westward, southward, southeastward, southward, westward, southward, eastward and southward.

Travelers Use Sedan Chairs.

The whole course of this thoroughfare is equal to but a few American city blocks in length and nowhere is it wide enough for even a jinrikisha to pass without driving playing children and their playmates—filthy dogs and pigs—into bordering doorways. The sedan chair is used by most travelers to penetrate the Foochow passageways where the odors permeating the atmosphere are so overwhelming to foreign nostrils that chair bearers are urged on to the nearest breathing spaces.

Ancient as Foochow seems to be to the westerner, it is a sort of wild west of China to the natives of Canton and Peking. In the days of Confucius all China looked upon the region that now is Fukien province as the halliwick of barbarians. The wall that encompasses the city did not rise until the Ming period which covered the years that America was discovered and colonized.

While poor transportation facilities for reaching Foochow have constituted an important factor in keeping the city truly oriental, cholera and the bubonic plague have also caused outsiders to give it a wide berth.

Perhaps the pleasantest portion of a Foochow tour is a visit to the tea factories and warehouses where tea leaves, scented with jasmynes, roses and chrysanthemums are sorted from dawn to dusk by Chinese women and children. Last year Foochow exported more than 7,000,000 pounds of Fukien tea and re-exported an additional 5,000,000 pounds which were shipped to its "tea perfumeries." There are more than forty tea factories in the city.

The open shops along the Foochow streets reveal thousands of natives eking out an existence in various industries. Before one's eyes artisans make wooden pillows and images of gods and odd-looking beasts; cabinet makers turn out fancy furniture; potters shape and fire handsome vessels; brick makers fashion their products in all shapes, sizes and colors; both men and women sit silently embroidering, or weaving the dark cloth usually worn by peasants; and dyers, with inky hands, seemingly turn old garments into new of a different color.

Trade with 27 cities and many small villages above Foochow which are reached by river boats accounts for much of Foochow's commercial activity. It was not until 1861 when the Min was opened to foreign shipping that the city's "suburbs" spread out along the Min banks and Foochow merchants beckoned to world trade.