

# Cuba Is Free of 'El Pote'

Island Republic Rejoices at the Death of its Richest Millionaire.

## CRUEL POWER OF WEALTH

Peasant Trod Down Millions as He Piled up Riches on Misfortunes of Others—Lived and Died a Prute.

Havana.—"El Pote" is dead and all Cuba rejoices. The peasant who became a millionaire many times over and used his wealth to wield a cruel power died as he had lived, haunted and hated, a victim of his own power. In 40 years he established a career lurid with tragedy, dark with sordid scheming, tremendous with both success and failure. A year ago reputed the richest man in Cuba, he came to a miserable end at his own hands, and almost his last words were that the wealth which cost him 40 years of unremitting toil to accumulate did not yield him one hour of happiness.

Jose Lopez Rodriguez was known to virtually every one in Cuba. He was a strange, sinister figure, and even in death he furnishes a remarkable example of what can be accomplished by the constant, ruthless application of power to a single task. Ferve el Pote (the pot boils) was his watchword, his motto, the rule of his sordid life, and it was from this that he came to be called "El Pote," the name with which millions became familiar. For years he thrived, at the expense of others. Then the fortunes of war turned against him, and, fearing the loss of all his ill-gotten gains, he committed suicide by hanging himself with a twisted sheet.

### Filthy of Body.

Not more than five feet in height, "El Pote" had the powerful, thickset frame typical of the Gallego peasant. He wore the oldest clothes he could find and was foul of mind and speech and filthy of body.

Jose Lopez Rodriguez was born in Spain and emigrated to Cuba in his fifteenth year, fleeing from the hard conditions of the Gallego peasant life. In Havana for a while he worked with pick and shovel, but as soon as he could he abandoned such hard manual labor to work for an old second-hand book dealer, peddling the books from house to house. One morning his aged employer was found dead in his bed and young Lopez Rodriguez, who slept on the premises, was arrested on suspicion of murder, but after spending some time in prison he was released for lack of sufficient evidence to indict.

The widow of the murdered bookseller continued the business and Lopez Rodriguez, after his release from prison returned to his old employment. One morning the widow was found hanging in her room, but no evidence being found to confirm a suspicion that there had been foul play, a verdict of suicide was returned. By the time the young employee had saved up some money and he bought the business.

### Piles Dollar on Dollar.

Living upon almost nothing and working tirelessly, he steadily increased his trade and piled one dollar on another until with the passage of the years his fortune grew to respectable dimensions.

When, after the wealth of Cubans had been drained by three years of revolution and embargo, the American fleet blockaded Havana in 1898, "El Pote"—for by that time he had come universally to be known by his sobriquet—was able to acquire for cash large properties for a tithe of their value, and when the Cuban republic was set up he was a rich man among men who had been ruined. The latter were compelled to go to him for cash which he alone was able to lend. And so it came to pass that many of those

to whom the government of the young republic was entrusted were his debtors—which he never allowed them to forget.

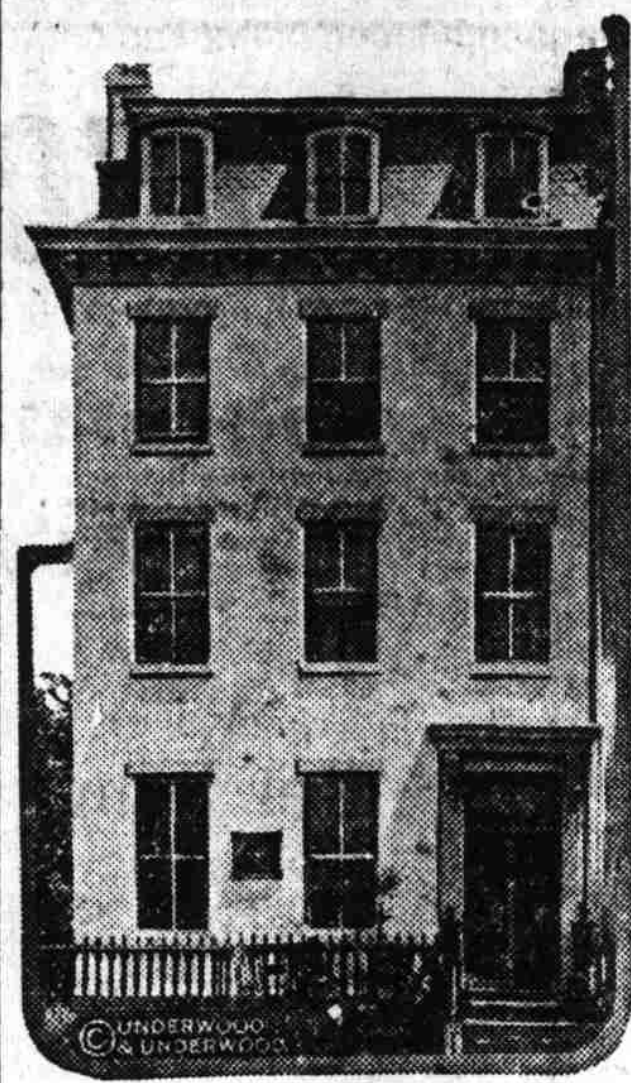
He secured a monopoly on all Cuban printing, for which scandal scores went to jail. Then he got control of one of the biggest banks and wrecked that. "Borrowing" no less than \$11,000,000 without security of any kind. He loaned millions, but always demanded from 50 to 100 per cent interest.

It is believed that after the payment of all debts the estate of Jose Lopez Rodriguez will be worth somewhere around \$10,000,000, proving that it was not the fear of penury that drove him to end his life in the fashion by which his employer 40 years ago had died and which had marked the beginning of his own prosperity.

### Hogs' Snouts Do Plowing.

Woodstock, Ont.—Hogs take the place of plows and harrows in the cultivation of one of the best producing small apple orchards in Ontario. Most orchardists plow and replot and harrow and ditch the land between the rows of trees. J. W. Tuttle of Currie merely turns in a drove of hogs.

## WOMEN'S WATCH TOWER



The National Woman's party is coming into its own again and has bought a new home which will be a regular "political watch tower" to the capital, which is within a stone's throw. The home is one of the most historic in Washington, having been the meeting place of congress from 1815 to 1819 while the capitol was being rebuilt, and was the scene of President Monroe's inauguration.

# \$66,000 Thief Given 3 Years

Memphis Teller for 12 Years Missed Vacations to Shield His Shortage.

## COURT GETS HIS CONFESSION

Began With \$100 Holdout and Lived in Hope of Making All Good—Never Missed a Day or Was Late—Strain Was Terrible.

Memphis, Tenn.—Alex V. Smith, formerly note teller for the First National bank, stood convicted, but elated with a three-year term, given to him after he had confessed to a \$66,001.37 peculation and pleaded guilty.

During the 12 years Smith was connected with the bank he never took a vacation, never was absent or late in reporting for duty. He told reporters in order to cover up the shortage he had to be continually on the job.

John D. Martin, Smith's counsel, read a copy of Smith's confession to the court in his plea for leniency. The confession says:

"I, Alex V. Smith of Raleigh, Tenn., do hereby make confession.

"I was born in Liverpool, England, on June 8, 1883. I left England and came to the United States when I was about twenty-two years old. After a short stay in New York city I came to Memphis, Tenn., and became a bank clerk in the employ of the Bank of Commerce of Memphis, where I worked for about nine months. I then entered the employ of the First National bank of Memphis, Tenn., and was continuously employed there until January 13, 1921. I was note teller at the First National bank for about 12 consecutive years. During this time I gave diligent attention to the duties of the position.

Began With \$100.  
"About 11 years ago, one day after the vaults were closed, to accommodate a customer I took a deposit of about \$100. That night I used this money to pay a debt, hoping to replace it immediately. It was never replaced, and the shortage grew, until January 12, 1921, it amounted to \$66,501.37.

"My method of concealment was throughout the entire period of short-

age to hold for a day or two, then remit, being in the manner always short in my remittances.

"I married about eight years ago, and at the time of my marriage my shortage was comparatively small. My family consists of my wife, aged thirty-one years, and three children, Alex V. Jr., aged seven; Jim Mangrum, aged six, and Jay Shaw, aged two years, nine months.

"The moneys which I embezzled from the bank were absorbed in my personal expense and extravagances. I have not dissipated money in gambling or speculation. I have, of course, entertained the vague hope that I could make restitution of these peculations, but have been crushed with the realization that this was impossible.

Strain Has Been Terrible.  
"The strain of my situation has, of course, been terrible, and I have suffered immense mental torture for years.

"I have been unable to obtain sufficient sleep or rest except through the use of intoxicants, and have been compelled to resort to the same means as a stimulant to enable me to discharge the regular duties of my office.

"It is my intention and desire that in the event there should be an indictment returned against me on account of my wrongdoing to immediately enter a plea of guilty to the same and throw myself without reservation upon the mercy of the court.

"It is my desire to receive such penalty as may be inflicted on me as speedily as possible, it being my deep desire, after I have met my punishment, to rise again and be a man. It will be my earnest effort to make good, in the fullest measure possible, the loss which has been occasioned as the result of my wrongdoing."

After the shortage was discovered Smith says regarding his conversation with bank officials:

"I gave them the exact figures, to wit, \$66,001.37, together with all data and documents pertaining thereto, thereby enabling the officials of the bank to make a speedy adjustment of their records. I gave the exact amount of my shortage as stated above, so that the bank would not be put to the necessity of a long, laborious and expensive audit of my accounts.

## PAJAMAS "NOBBY" ON STREET

Russ Officer's Garb Leads to Distribution of Garments to Refugees.

Constantinople, Turkey.—American Red Cross and army pajamas are being converted into jaunty street clothes here by ingenious Russian refugee soldiers and civilians.

Hugh S. Bird, treasurer of the Red Cross, when here on a visit of inspection, saw a spick-and-span monocled Russian officer flourishing a cane and fanning himself with a straw hat at the local Red Cross offices. He noticed that the man had taken a suit of pajamas, sewed shoulder strap braid on them, strapped his officer's belt about them and rolled up the bottoms to give a trouser effect.

Mr. Bird thought so well of the ingenuity of the man, who had defeated the hot weather, that he gave orders for several thousand more pajamas to be distributed, so no Russian need wear his heavy, shabby winter clothes.

## Partridges Aflight in Street.

Cotesville, Pa.—A covey of partridges came into this city and alighted on the paved streets in the business section. Volunteer firemen caught a few and placed them in a box, liberating them later in the country. They had become frightened when a cooper's hawk attacked them on the bill.

## FARM POULTRY

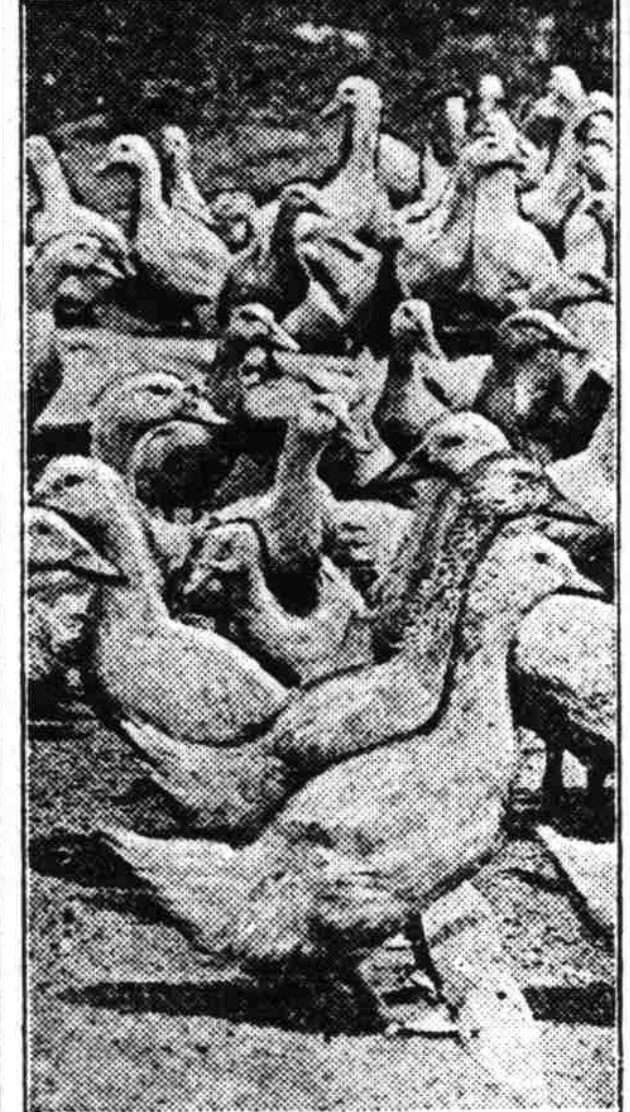
### ARRANGEMENT OF DUCK FARM

Should Be Located on Light, Sandy Soil, With Convenient Facilities for Watering.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Duck farms are usually located on light, sandy soil, preferably on sloping land, where the droppings will leach freely into the soil, so that the land keeps sweet and clean. The farm should have good shipping facilities to aid both in shipping products and in buying supplies. The arrangement of the buildings should be planned to economize labor and allow for future increase of the equipment.

The incubator cellar should be convenient to the brooder house, the brooder house to the growing house



Young Green Ducks, Ready for Market.

and pens, and these buildings to the killing house. The pens in the houses, the outside yards, and the arrangement of the buildings should be planned so that the ducks may be easily driven from house to house as desired. The feed room or house should be centrally located.

Convenient watering arrangements are essential where large numbers of ducks are kept, as they require a large amount of drinking water, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. While ducks may be kept successfully under very intensive conditions, it is advisable to allow considerable yard space. Double yards, which may be rotated and planted to quick-growing crops, such as oats, wheat and rye, are good for intensive duck farms.

It is advisable to have a pond or stream for the breeding ducks, as they usually give better fertility under these conditions, although on some successful duck farms the ducks are always kept off dry land. The young green ducks on some farms which have a pond are not allowed to go into the water except to bathe and clean their feathers just before marketing. Other growers, however, allow the green ducks free access to ponds or streams until they are marketed.

## CHEAP COOP FOR BACK YARD

Inexpensive House Will Prove Entirely Satisfactory Where Small Flock Is Kept.

It is not necessary to spend much money for housing if you are going to keep a small flock of hens in your back yard. Indeed, it is unwise, say poultry specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. One or two piano cases or a large packing box may often be made into an acceptable home. But whatever you build should be made dry and free from drafts, and have good ventilation. The United States Department of Agriculture has numerous bulletins giving directions for this kind of construction, and any of these are available for the asking, or for a very few cents where a charge is necessary. A card to the division of publications, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will get you what you need.

## EGGS PRESERVED WITH LIME

Will Be Found Quite Satisfactory Where Water Glass Is Difficult to Obtain.

If water glass is not obtainable, lime may be used for preserving eggs, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is not considered so good as water glass, as in some instances eggs preserved by this method have tasted slightly of lime, although at other times lime-water has proved entirely satisfactory.

To preserve with lime, dissolve two pounds of unslaked lime in a small quantity of water, and dilute with five gallons of water that has previously been boiled and cooled. Allow the mixture to stand until the lime settles, then pour off and use the clear liquid. Place clean, fresh eggs in a clean earthenware crock or jar, and pour the clear lime-water into the vessel until the eggs are covered. At least two inches of the solution should cover the top layer of eggs.

## PREPARE WAR ON INSECT ENEMIES

If Left Undisturbed Bugs of Various Kinds Will Destroy Best Part of Garden.

## PESTS HAVE BIG APPETITES

Tobacco Extract Is Recommended for Plant Lice and Other Sucking Parasites—Main Point is to Start Fight Early.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Gardeners are warned by specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture to prepare to combat the "little enemies of the garden." Insects of various kinds are making their appearance in vast numbers in gardens in all parts of the country, and if left undisturbed will defeat the gardener's best efforts and lay waste the vegetable crops. This is the open season for insects and there are no laws which limit the number which may be killed. The department specialists urge the use of the spray pump and dusting bag for the frequent application of poisons in order to destroy the pests before they destroy the garden. Early efforts in fighting insects are most effective.

Little Bugs With Big Appetites.  
In most localities the Colorado or "hard-shell" potato beetles are industriously depositing clusters of small yellowish eggs on the underside of the potato leaves. In a few days these hatch into little red, soft-shelled slugs or "soft-shells," as they are often called, that have most wonderful appetites, and unless poisons are applied they will soon strip the potato plants of their leaves.

Perhaps there is no class of garden insects the method of attack of which is so insidious as that of the plant lice or aphids.

At first a very few lice may be found hidden on the under side of the leaves of melons, peas, cabbage, and other vegetables. A little later the leaves begin to curl up and to lose their color, and an examination will show that the "lice" which the ants carried out have become grandmothers, and the under side of the leaves will be literally alive with them, feasting on the juices of the plants. At this stage something must be done quickly, for within a few days there will be another generation or brood at work.

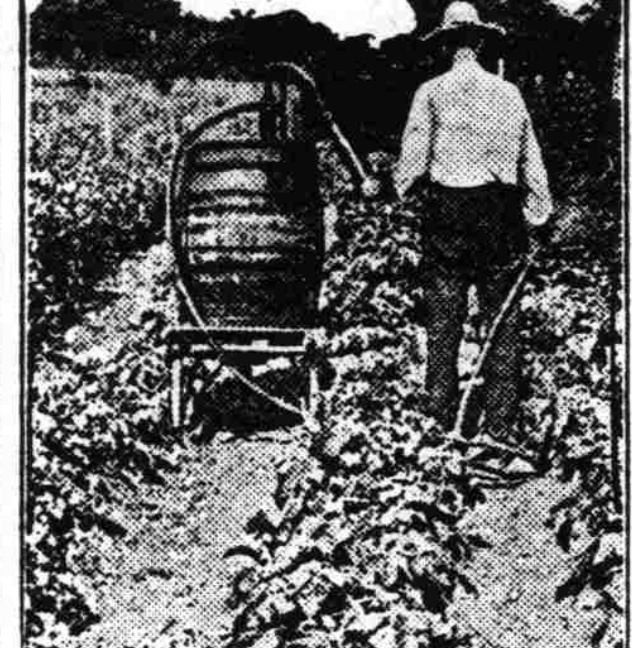
Arsenate of lead and paris green have no effect upon this army of plant blood suckers, and it is necessary to use contact poisons. A preparation must be used that will not injure the

plants but which will kill the "lice." The most common of these contact poisons is nicotine sulphate—a tobacco extract—made of tobacco refuse from factories. This is a poison and to be effective in killing the "lice" without injuring the plants, must be used exactly according to the directions given on the container. United States Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin 856, on the control of garden diseases and insects, has the following to say regarding the use of nicotine sulphate:

"For small garden plants one teaspoonful of nicotine sulphate should be used to one gallon of water, to which a one-inch cube of hard soap should be added and thoroughly mixed. If a larger quantity is desired, use one fluid ounce to eight gallons of water, with the addition of one-half pound of soap. Full directions are given on the covers of packages, and instructions accompany them.

Effective Application of Spray.  
"In the use of nicotine sulphate the effective application of the spray is of the utmost importance, since it is primarily upon this that the success or failure of the treatment depends. If the liquid has stood for any length of time it should be agitated thoroughly before use. The insects themselves must receive a thorough coat of the spray or they will not be killed, and immediate inspection after spraying should show the foliage occupied by the insects to be completely wet.

"Spraying should be done as early as possible, always on the first appearance of the insect, not only because it is good practice to keep the plants free from pests but because more thorough work can be done on small plants." The main point is to start the fight in time and kill the advance scouts and head off the main army of insect pests.



Insects Do Not Thrive in This Garden, but the Crops Do.

## GROW PURPLE VETCH FOR VALUABLE SEED

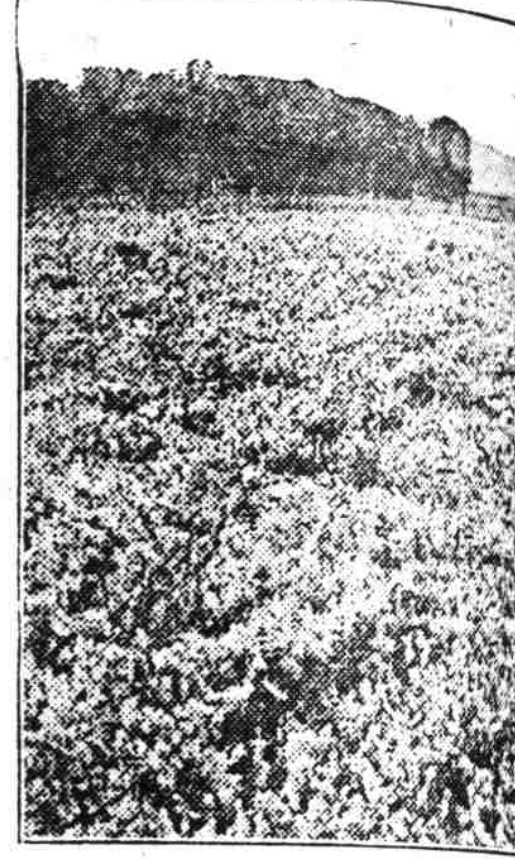
Advantages of Crop Have Been Known for Years.

It Is Not as Popular in Northern States as Common Variety, Which Is Hardier and Has Become Established as Forage.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Due largely to the intermediary efforts of the United States Department of Agriculture, 2,400 acres of purple vetch is reported as being grown in California for use in the orchards of the southern part of the state, where it has proven a superior green-manure crop. The superiority of purple vetch in California for green manure lies in the fact that it makes more growth during the winter months and can be turned under earlier than other legume crops.

Purple vetch was first brought to this country from Italy in 1890 and its advantages have been appreciated for



A Field of Purple Vetch.

a number of years, but it was not possible to introduce it extensively because of scarcity of seed. In the region where it was most valuable it has not been feasible to raise purple vetch in large quantities because of climatic conditions. In the North, on the other hand, the seed can be grown successfully, but there the purple vetch is not in as great favor for forage as common vetch, which is hardier and has become established in popularity.

To make a bridge between the two geographically distant localities has been the work of a number of years on the part of the department experts. It was first necessary to demonstrate the value of purple vetch in the South, and afterwards to induce northern farmers to substitute it to some extent for their customary crops. This latter was difficult, because purple vetch was not quoted in the market, and also because, where a sale was effected, farmers were tempted to sell their entire stock, reserving no seed to maintain or extend the acreage.

The assistance of a large California fruit growers' association was enlisted, and last year 500 acres were grown under guarantee, a large portion of the yield being kept for seed. This year northwestern California and Oregon farmers will receive 14½ cents a pound for purple vetch seed, which should give them from \$150 to \$200 per acre in addition to the straw. From now on it is expected sufficient seed will be available for all needs.

## VALUE OF UNDRAWN POULTRY

Experiments Conducted by Department of Agriculture Show Birds Spoil Less Quickly.

Poultrymen still discuss the relative merits of drawn and undrawn poultry. Practice varies in different communities. Opening the body undoubtedly exposes the internal surface to the air which always contains micro-organisms, and thus may hasten decomposition; but it should be remembered also that the viscera decompose more rapidly than other parts of the body, and if left they may taint or infect the rest of the bird.

In elaborate experiments with drawn, partly drawn, and undrawn poultry, conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture, it was found that undrawn birds spoil least quickly, and partly drawn ones less quickly than the fully drawn ones from which, not only the viscera, but also the heads and feet, have been removed.

## BUILDS WEEVIL-PROOF CRIB

Southern Farmer Demonstrates How Log Building Can Be Made Secure Against Insects.

The county agent of Taylor county, Fla., reports that one farmer in his community has worked out a way by which a log corn crib can be made practically air-tight to guard the corn against weevils. This farmer put the three or four inches of dirt on the floor and covered it with another floor and covered it with another floor of lumber, and the cracks outside were filled with clay. The door facings were padded with cloth and the door made of two layers of cypress lumber, with a piece of paper roofing between. This arrangement cost about \$10, in addition to the farmer's labor. Others in this neighborhood are building cribs in the same way.

## Sylvia Pankhurst Toasted by Reds



Miss Sylvia Pankhurst (center), who served five months' imprisonment at Holloway for preaching sedition in the British navy, was recently dismissed. Following her "coming out" she was tendered a breakfast in London by the Communist party. This photograph shows the "reds" offering a toast to Miss Pankhurst.