

PRESIDENT CASTRO VERITABLE TYRANT

Rules as Dictator in So-Called
Republic of Venezuela.

CURSES ALL FOREIGNERS

Laws and Decisions of Courts Made in Ac-
cordance With His Instructions—
Constitution Amended at His
Dictation.

NEW YORK, April 6.—The Tribune this morning contains a long article purporting to give a clear account of the circumstances responsible for the strained relations between the United States and Venezuela. It comes from a writer in New York who connected with the paper and in order that it might be fairly criticized or corrected, printed proofs of it were submitted to the Venezuelan legation in Washington and to the Venezuelan consul in this city.

The article began by saying that the recall of United States Minister Loomis from Venezuela has released much information concerning the methods of the Venezuelan government headed by President Castro. New York business men who own large concessions in Venezuela and who are kept informed by their representatives in Caracas of the state of affairs have within the last few days given to the writer the facts long withheld.

From these merchants it is learned that Castro is revising the constitution to suit his revolutionary policy. He called a congress together February 20, whose members are all of his choosing. Their first act was to pass, according to his orders, an amendment to the constitution extending the term of office of the president from four years to six. This was done without any pretension of consulting the choice of the people. During the first week in March he appointed as members of his cabinet seven men who have learned to subjugate their will to his.

Castro has been dictator ever since he drove President Andrade by force of arms from Venezuela's executive mansion, eighteen months ago. He has yet to serve the remaining year of Andrade's term, which does not expire until February 20, 1902. Then, according to his revision of the constitution, he will enjoy six years more in office, making eight and one-half years altogether. Meanwhile the real president of Venezuela is Andrade, who is today on the island of Curacao, which he has chosen as the starting point of a proposed expedition.

In Venezuela there is no such thing as capital punishment. Crimes penalties stop at imprisonment for ten years. But General Acosta, a friend of Andrade and an enemy of Castro, who had dared to take up arms against Castro and was the head of the revolutionary party in the field, was put to death. A correspondent for a weekly newspaper who recently returned from Venezuela tells how Acosta was captured and in spite of the law against that form of punishment was shot by Castro's order on February 19.

In Venezuela now, it is asserted, government dignitaries, the justices of the courts, local officials in the various cities and states retain their places as long only as they obey without question the orders of Castro. In January two justices of the supreme court failed in a certain case to hand down a decision that accorded with Castro's notion of justice. These justices were thrown into a cell and kept there until they agreed to think with Castro.

In the first month of his presidency Castro called to his presence a number of wealthy representative merchants and bankers and informed them that they must contribute to the support of the government. According to his own estimate of the amount of their fortunes, he fixed the sum each should pay into the treasury at once. The amounts ranged from \$20,000 to \$50,000. A few objected and straightway found themselves conveyed to the Rotunda, the worst prison in Caracas. Subsequently Castro had three of the gentlemen hand-

cuffed and shackled together and marched through the streets of the city barefooted and bareheaded surrounded by a strong armed guard. Then he sent each to a stone cell, the dimensions of which were so small as to make it impossible for him to lie down. After several days he ordered them to be transported to San Carlos, the old Spanish fortress prison at Maracaibo, where are confined all the criminal convicts.

At the pleadings of their families and their friends they surrendered, but not until they had again paraded the streets in shackles and barefoot and with uncovered head. Having paid over the price of their freedom—one \$10,000, another \$20,000 and the third \$30,000, they regained their liberty. They subsequently escaped from the country in disguise and arrived at Trinidad. In this way Castro raised the funds for conducting the government until the revenues of the war taxes began to come in.

Another method of raising money is charging business men with "conspiring against the government," and confiscating their property.

Not long ago a German merchant arrived at Barcelona from Caracas to collect moneys due on various enterprises in which he was interested. He collected in all \$12,000. Castro heard of this and gave orders that the money must not be taken out of the country and that the collector must leave the cash with the government. The man was seized and placed on a stool in a prison yard where the hot rays of the sun beat upon his bare head and a soldier stood on each side with a fixed bayonet with orders to run him through if he attempted to escape. After seven hours of suffering he announced that he would give up \$10,000 if they would release him. That was not enough. The whole \$12,000 or nothing. In the sixth hour of his torture he yielded, took the soldier to the place where he had concealed the money and surrendered it. He sailed on the next steamer leaving Caracas.

A month later a German cruiser entered Laguayra. The captain and twelve sailors pulled ashore and then rode to Caracas. They at once entered Castro's presence and peremptorily demanded not only every penny of the \$12,000 but the punishment of the official who had superintended the torture. Without a word Castro paid the money and ordered the official who had carried out the president's orders cast into the Rotunda.

"Curse all foreigners," Castro is reported to have said, when once General Ayala, the minister of industry, suggested that foreign money and immigration should be encouraged to develop Venezuela's resources. "I'll annul every concession held by a foreigner in this country," the dictator is alleged to have said, "and sell the concessions over again."

In December he annulled all the concessions of the various Orinoco concerns—the trading company, the colonization company and the shipping and transportation company. All American concerns with headquarters in New York. The reason he gave for this procedure was that the companies had not carried out their contract conditions.

Previous to this he had annulled the concession of the asphalt company in the state of Bermudez, a concession which for ten years or more had been yielding the country a large revenue annually. He then sold the asphalt property, which had been purchased years before in fee simple from the government of Venezuela. The asphalt company protested and carried its case to the Venezuelan courts, where it was rewarded with an adverse decision. Then the company brought its case to Washington and placed it before the United States government. The state department immediately sent instructions regarding the matter to Minister Loomis in Caracas. These instructions Loomis carried out to the letter. This precipitated the trouble in Venezuela.

Meanwhile it was said by excellent authorities that each of the entire diplomatic corps in Caracas is posing his government daily regarding the state of affairs.

Senor Augusto Pulido, charge d'affaires of the Venezuelan legation, examined the article with considerable attention at the Waldorf-Astoria last night. He said:

"I believe this article to be greatly exaggerated. Cipriano Castro is not a dictator in any sense of the word. He won his office by force of arms, but he has obeyed the constitution since his rise to power. I never heard of the reported amendment to the constitution whereby the term of office of president was extended from four years to six. Andrade is not the real president of Venezuela. Neither is Castro. The latter is only a provisional president. I do not know even if he will be elected to that office."

"During the troubled months when the whole country was in a state of siege, extraordinary measures were necessary to preserve any semblance of order. If these things did occur it was long ago and much less harassing than portrayed by your correspondent."

Gonzales Esteves, the consul-general of Venezuela at this port, refused to discuss the contents of the article, saying there was no truth in it.

NAVAL DEMONSTRATION LIKELY. CINCINNATI, April 6.—A special to the Enquirer from San Juan de Porto Rico says:

Minister Loomis has not arrived, though cable dispatches state that he left Laguayra for San Juan on the auxiliary cruiser Scorpion, due yesterday morning. It is suspected that the Scorpion will join the squadron at Culebra, from whence daily dispatch boats arrive at San Juan. There has evidently been some delay in the departure from Laguayra of Minister Loomis. Naval officials here profess ignor-

ance of the whereabouts of Loomis. Ayala Blanca, the Venezuelan consul here, says that President Castro of Venezuela is unlikely to yield to the demands of the United States and Blanco expects that a naval demonstration will follow. He fears the result because of the heavy foreign interests at the sea ports and hints at possible complications of an international character. Uprisings have taken place in several districts but President Castro is considered to be able to quell them.

CONFESSION CORROBORATED.

Assistant District Attorney Thinks Patrick Can Be Held to Await Action of Grand Jury.

NEW YORK, April 6.—The Times says: Assistant District Attorney James W. Osborne is satisfied that Valer Jones' confession on the witness stand that he murdered old Millionaire Rice under the direction of Albert T. Patrick has already been sufficiently corroborated by the five chief witnesses Patrick could call in his own defense to warrant Justice Jerome in holding the accused man to await the action of the grand jury. Mr. Osborne contends that Short, Meyer, Dr. Curry, Potts and Mrs. Francis have already corroborated the value of the confession in that they will assure the court of Patrick's connection with the crime.

"Patrick is the central idea in this whole conspiracy," said the district attorney's chief criminal prosecutor last night. "He was the whole thing. The deeds to the whole of Rice's property are in his name. The general assignments and checks are in his name. He attempted to cash these checks. Patrick was the principal beneficiary under the will of 1900, so if I prove Jones killed Rice, as he says he did, it will certainly show that he was not conducting an eleemosynary institution for the purpose of getting people out of the way, but for some definite purpose. That purpose was to get the old man's money."

GOLDSBOROUGH'S TRIAL TRIP.

Torpedo-Boat Destroyer Made Speed of 2½ Knots at Seattle.

SEATTLE, April 6.—The torpedo-boat destroyer Goldsborough made two successful trial trips of the official series this afternoon in Seattle harbor. She attained a speed of 2½ knots, using Franklin coal. Her builders claim that with Welch or Australian coal she will easily make 30 knots on her final trial trip.

The vessel's machinery worked smoothly and not the slightest accident marred the day's work. It is expected that she will be given her final trial, and accepted by the trial board next week.

PLAGUE IN MICHIGAN.

Student of State University Taken to Pesthouse.

DETROIT, April 6.—A special to the Tribune from Ann Arbor, Michigan, says: A student of the University of Michigan whose name is withheld was taken to the pesthouse from the university contagious disease hospital today. He has a mild attack of the bubonic plague.

MERRIMAC BLOWN UP.

Hobson's Collier Destroyed by Dynamite Yesterday.

NEW YORK, April 6.—A special from Santiago de Cuba to the Journal and Advertiser says that the wreck of the collier Merrimac, which was sunk at the entrance to the harbor by Lieutenant R. P. Hobson and his little band of volunteers during the blockade, will be blown up with dynamite today.

Forewarned, Forearmed.

The liability to disease is greatly lessened when the blood is in good condition, and the circulation healthy and vigorous. For then all refuse matter is promptly carried out of the system; otherwise it would rapidly accumulate, fermentation would take place, the blood become polluted and the constitution so weakened that a simple malady might result seriously.

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Mr. E. E. Kelly, of Urbana, O., writes: "I had Scours on my hands and face for five years. It would break out in little white pustules, crusts would form and drop off, leaving the skin red and inflamed. The doctors did me no good. I used all the medicated soaps and salves without benefit. S. S. S. cured me, and my skin is as clear and smooth as any one's."

Mrs. Henry Siegfried, of Cape May, N. J., says that twenty-one bottles of S. S. S. cured her of Cancer of the breast. Doctors and friends thought her case hopeless.

Richard T. Gardner, Florence, S. C., suffered for years with Boils. Two bottles of S. S. S. put his blood in good condition and the Boils disappeared.

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CARTER'S STEALINGS FOUND.

Government Will Regain Money Taken by Ex-Army Officer.

NEW YORK, April 6.—A special to the Tribune from Washington says: Important developments in the Oberlin M. Carter case are likely to occur within a few days. Carter is now serving a sentence of five years' imprisonment in the government prison at Leavenworth, Kas., charged with gigantic swindling operations against the government.

Up to the time he was convicted Carter was under the jurisdiction of and was prosecuted by the war department. Since then the civil authorities of the government, acting through the department of justice, have been quietly but vigorously and relentlessly tracing step by step the money Carter stole and now have the great bulk of it located and are about ready to recover it and turn it back into the treasury.

The department of justice has discovered that Carter's profits from the swindling scheme which he worked successfully for so long a time were \$22,000. The government detectives who for three years have been on the ex-army officer's trail have located nearly every cent of this money and as soon as certain unimportant details are completed the legal steps necessary to recover it will be taken by the department of justice.

Attachments will be sworn out by United States district attorneys in New York city, in Savannah and at other places where Carter invested the money and it is not impossible that as a result of these proceedings the arrest of two or three well known men, charged with knowingly taking part in protecting Carter's stealings, will follow.

It has been learned that Carter invested the money in gilt-edged securities and real estate around New York. All of these securities as well as the real estate have been located and the government will swoop down on them as soon as the attachments are obtained.

REBELS GAINING STRENGTH.

Hundreds of Government Soldiers Captured in Colombia.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 6.—The Chronicle says: Private advices received by the steamship City of Sydney from Panama state that the revolution in Colombia is far from ended and that the rebels are steadily gaining strength.

About the first of March, General Uribe, at the head of rebel troops, had a fierce battle in Caparrapi, state of Cundina Marca, in which the capital city of Bogota is situated. The government troops were defeated and 250 prisoners, 500 rifles and twenty-five cases of ammunition were left in the rebels' hands.

General Ramon Nieto has won several victories over government troops in Boyaca and General Curcio and Thanez keep up the fighting in Cundina Marca and Tolima. In those two states there are reported to be 8000 rebels.

Generals Nieto and Delgadillo have captured Manizaba, with 250 government soldiers. Generals Colmenares, Elba and Escobar, after a marked victory at La Palma against 1200 government troops, have taken positions in Pacho and San Cayetano with 1500 men. The situation at Panama is becoming worse and the government is again thinking of leaving the interior to the rebels, or liberals, as they term themselves.

The rebel forces in the interior of Panama now number 2000 men of which 600 are armed, but as soon as the rebels receive the arms and ammunition they have purchased, an army of 500 men will be available to move against Panama. The revolution has been in progress since October 18, 1899.

RACE WILL COME OFF.

Bordina and The Abbott Will Meet at Lexington, Kentucky.

NEW YORK, April 6.—When asked last night concerning the proposed race between Bordina and The Abbott at Lexington, Ky., John J. Scannell, owner of The Abbott, said:

"I have not yet seen Mr. Lawson about the race, but that there is any chance against it I cannot conceive. As the terms have been explained to me the race is to be for a side bet of \$10,000, while the association takes a guarantee of \$10,000."

"We have not had a meeting but I expect that a conference will be held in a very short time and then we shall be able to make the proper arrangements for the race. The Abbott now is in training in Louisville, Ky., and will be prepared for the racing at that place."

"As the horse is in the hands of trainer Ed Goers, I have no means of knowing just what is the condition of the horse, but I am satisfied that he will hold his place as the world's champion trotter for this year at least and I am willing to make any reasonable match for him."

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