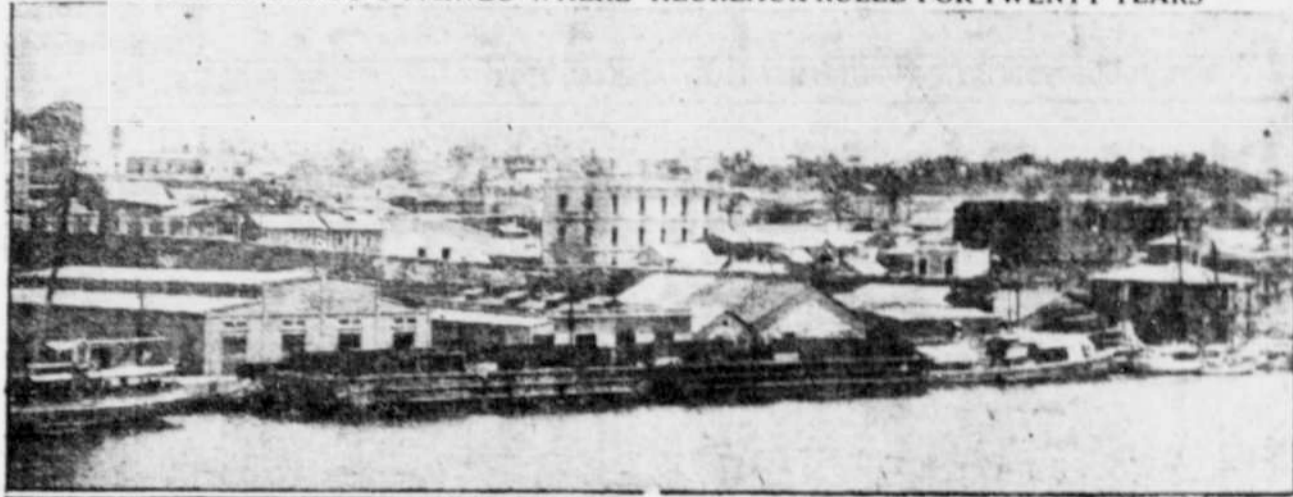
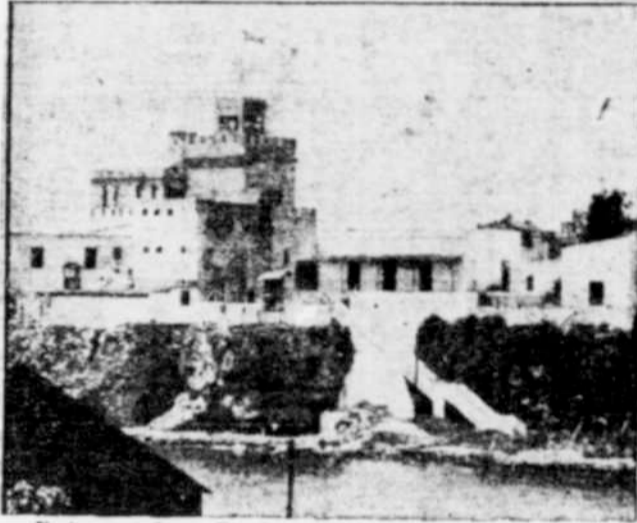


IRON HANDED Black PRESIDENT of San Domingo

SCENES IN SANTO DOMINGO WHERE HEUREAUX RULED FOR TWENTY YEARS



View of Santo Domingo City, the capital.



Fortress at Santo Domingo which is the key to the city.

(Continued from Page One)

"How did you like that dinner?"

"Excellent," replied the other. "Glad you liked it, old chap." He laughed Heureaux, "for it's your last. Have some more liquor and another cigar."

To the astonished conspirator, Heureaux revealed all the details of the plot against his life, and, calling in guards, had his guest marched out into the court-yard, where he was soon riddled with bullets.

On another occasion he learnt that two of his leading officers, the minister of war and the governor of a province, were plotting against him. He decided to play one against the other. Through his agents, he had the minister of war so irritated against the governor that the former went into the governor's territory and shot him dead. The assassination naturally caused an outburst of indignation, whereupon Heureaux ordered the minister to be shot.

At another time he learnt that

one of his leading generals was planning to assassinate him. Sending for the conspirator, he treated him courteously and invited him for a ride. Arriving at a certain spot, they dismounted. Some men with shovels were busy throwing up the earth.

"What are they digging there?" demanded the general.

Heureaux laughed: "Strange, you should ask. That's your grave."

To the dumbfounded general he unfolded the plot and before the latter could recover from his astonishment he was shot and tumbled into his grave.

Once when a friend asked Heureaux what would history say about him, he replied: "To the devil with history. I won't be there to read it."

In 1882 after his first term, Heureaux stepped down, retaining the power, however. He named a subordinate of his as president, but not long after a great insurrection broke out under General Moya. After six

months' fighting, Heureaux was victorious and was re-elected. A former friend of his, General Guillermo, began plotting against him, but the latter, rather than fall into Heureaux's hands, killed himself.

Once more in office he remained until his death. He ruled like a Mussolini. He was the real head of every department. Like Louis XIV, he said: "The State, it is I." When anything in the constitution did not please him he gave orders to the legislature to change it. The people grateful for peace, affectionately called him, "Lilas."

Under his rule commerce and agriculture improved, and respect for the republic among the foreign powers increased. But the debts he had been forced to take over proved too great a handicap for him. As one way out of these difficulties he was forced to issue an excess of paper money. To improve the coinage he ordered all foreign coins brought in to be clipped thus lessening the probability of their ever being taken out.

He became so firmly established in power that other candidates found it useless to oppose him. During a political campaign one of the candidates said sarcastically to the audience:

"My friends, this Republic is founded on the free and unrestricted suffrage of its citizens. It is the boast of the Dominican that he may vote for whom he pleases. You are therefore free to vote for whom you choose. But I certainly would not be your friend if I failed to warn you that those who do not vote for Heureaux might as well leave the country."

But in spite of the severity of his repression, conspirators continued to plot against him. Revolts were hatched in Haiti and in the United States. One of his chief foes, Juan Jimenez, came to the United States, sought funds, and fitted out an expedition which sailed in a ship called the Fanita.

Landing at Monte Cristi, Jimenez hoped to duplicate the feat of Antonio Maceo, stir up the natives, and march on the capital. In the first engagement, Jimenez defeated the governor of the province, but in the second he was beaten, and sailed away. Heureaux sent a warship after him, but Jimenez took refuge in a British port. Jimenez was tried as a filibuster by the British, but was finally freed.

Another plotter, working in conjunction with Jimenez, was Horacio Vasquez. The plot spread into the interior, with Ramon Caceres, a relative of Vasquez, at its head. As it happened Heureaux had planned a trip into the interior.

Arriving there, he learnt of the plot, and ordered the governor of the province to arrest Caceres. The governor, however, was a friend of Caceres and told him, whereupon Caceres, knowing that Heureaux would not hesitate to order his execution, decided to attack him.

Heureaux was then in the small town of Moca, and feeling sure that Caceres would attack him only in some out of the way spot on the road, went about the town openly. Moreover, his whole life, having been spent in the teeth of danger, he was reckless.

Before leaving Moca, on July 26, 1899, Heureaux had occasion to visit the local treasurer, who was one of the leading merchants, and he rode over alone to the treasurer's store. As he dismounted a beggar approached him and he gave him alms. Heureaux went into the store, transacted his affairs and left. But Caceres, who was waiting for him, fired as he emerged, the bullet striking him in the chest. As he was falling Heureaux, ever ready, drew his revolver and blazed away, but his bullets went wild and lodged in the heart of the beggar.

BLACK HEUREAUX born 1845 of full-blooded Negro parents, became a general at 18 and a president at 26. He kept his hot-blooded country at peace for 20 years.

The first shot had been fatal to Heureaux, but Caceres and his friends continued to empty their revolvers into his prostrate body, after which, mounting their horses, they rode swiftly away.

Heureaux's body was taken to Santo Domingo and buried in the cathedral there, after a pompous funeral. The working people mourned him and well they might, for in the next 16 years (1899-1916) there were thirteen presidents and several revolutions. American administration began on April 12, 1917. Heureaux had been a bitter foe of the proposed American annexation.

Heureaux was very highly thought of by the other Latin-American rulers. King Alfonso of Spain, presented him with the Gold Cross of Isabella La Católica. Before his death Congress had bestowed on him the title of "Pacificador de la Patria," and had named a state, "Pacificador," in his honor.

In the revolution that followed his death, Caceres was victorious, and was elected to the presidency. But his triumph was short-lived. Another rival, General Louis Vidal, shot down Caceres cold-bloodedly after he had played a game of billiards with him and caressed Caceres's little daughter.

Heureaux's son, Ulises, is a leading writer and dramatist of Santo Domingo.

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