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THE EVENING HERALD

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KLAMATH FALLS, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1908.

CASTRO'S REVENGE.

(Willemstad Correspondence of the New York Herald.)

Curacao's doom is sealed if President Castro remains chief executive of Venezuela. The island has already been reduced to desperate straits, and the only possible change must be for the worse if the President stays in power or if he should be succeeded by a man able to continue his policy.

General Castro declared five years ago that he would reduce Willemstad to the importance of a fishing village. The merchants here smiled at his utterance, but they have become very serious now.

Curacao had thrived for generations as a thorn in the side of Venezuelan presidents. This city, long since dubbed "Spotless Town," became one of the most flourishing ports in the Caribbean at the expense of Venezuela. Its sole reason for existence was that it had an excellent port; that it was under the Dutch flag, and so close to the mainland that on a clear day the mountains across the strait may be seen with the naked eye.

The island is practically barren and rainless. While there is an abundance of rain in every other island of this sea and on the continent beyond, Curacao remains almost eternally dry and cannot produce a fraction of the food required by its inhabitants. Its low customs duties made it a mecca for Venezuelan smugglers, and those who had to flee from the Spanish Main for political reasons found homes here and were able to plot against their home governments without interference.

The natives have a patios called Papiamento, but the prevailing language is Spanish, though the official tongue is Dutch. The island is practically a bit of Venezuela under a foreign flag or rule.

Willemstad prospered until President Castro intervened. He has stopped all Venezuelan schooners from coming here. They formerly brought fruits, vegetables and meat and great bundles of straw, which were converted into cheap hats and found their way all over the world, being used by European armies in the tropics. As large steamers cannot enter the port of Maracaibo, most of them

transferred their freight here, until President Castro decreed that no merchandise could be transhipped from its original source except in Venezuelan ports.

Red G steamers touched here and then going to various places in Venezuela always took aboard at Curacao gangs of men to assist in discharging and stowing their cargoes. Under one of President Castro's decrees steamers cannot bring into Venezuelan ports any persons outside of the members of the regular crew, who have made the entire trip from the point of starting. Under this rule Venezuelans are taken on the ships as well as doing the work on the docks.

As great care is taken in Venezuela under President Castro's rule to prevent any article, especially food, from coming to Curacao, the stewards of the vessels that touch here have had difficulty in getting as much fruit as they wished for the passengers.

No person who goes on a ship here is permitted to land in Venezuela. By unusual diplomacy the German Minister in Caracas, Baron von Seckendorff, has obtained leave for two persons to take the next steamer for Venezuela. One of these is a German merchant doing business in Maracaibo, who has been ill here, and the other is the Imperial German Consul, M. Fehnsohn, who has just received notice depriving him of the agency of the Bank of Venezuela, which he has had for many years.

The result of these discriminations has been sudden stagnation. Food supplies are now brought in by a schooner from Colombia and Santo Domingo. From the latter island the trip down here with favoring winds is usually made in about three days, while the return requires an average of eight. With the means of livelihood of most of the families curtailed, if not stopped entirely, particularly on account of the lack of Venezuelan straw, there has been a sharp advance in the price of provisions and there is real suffering among the poor.

The sudden severance of relations has resulted disastrously for Venezuela, whose waning trade had been brought almost to a standstill by the bubonic plague. The fruits that found

a ready market here are going to waste, the schooners are lying idle and the straw is almost valueless. Settlements that depended mainly upon the Curacao trade may be depopulated.

Under the new scheme of President Castro's, all longshoremen who are allowed to work on the docks and aboard ships are employed through the Collectors of Customs, and not directly by the steamship agents. They are enrolled in a body, and wear bands on their hats with the words "Caleta nacional." This system has already given rise to loud complaints, as the men are not making as much as formerly, while the steamship companies have to pay a little more. In other words, there is ample profit for those upon whom the laborers must depend for employment.

The feeling here is extremely bitter toward President Castro. I have just passed a group of negroes lying in the shade by the Hotel de Comercio, opposite two goeletas flying the Colombian flag, nearly similar to the Venezuelan tricolor, which is cordially hated in Colombia. One of the idlers was singing in a loud tone:

Para matar a Castro se necesita.
 Una bomba grande de dinamita.
 This may roughly be rendered into English:

To kill Castro one should fight
 With a bomb of dynamite.

The negro's song is a favorite popular parody on the "Marche," as hackneyed here as the "Jerry Widow" waltz in New York, which runs in the original:

Para subir al cielo se necesita.
 Una escalera grande y una muchachita.

Which means in effect:
 Into heaven if you would pass,
 Try a long ladder and a lass.

There is talk on every side here about the prospects of a revolution in Venezuela. Enthusiasts say that only will occur very quickly, that the guns are ready and that the populace is ready to rise against the oppressor. Men with wider experience in campaigns shake their heads and express grave doubts.

To begin with, they say President Castro has the people thoroughly cowed and most Venezuelans would hesitate to join a movement that did not seem strong enough to crush him immediately. Then, it is urged that a lot of money would be required for a successful revolution, with guns, ammunition and supplies, and there is no money at hand and little in sight on account of the hard times in Venezuela.

Many people here urge that Holland should make Curacao a free port for arms and ammunition in order to enable revolutionists to accumulate their supplies here in advance and to get whatever they require as long as the trouble continues.

With all of the revolutionary discussions, very little that is tangible can be learned here. It is alleged that an important movement is un-

der way and that preparations are being made to strike the first blow, but if this be so the plans have been kept with unusual secrecy at the very point where sympathy and aid might be expected.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Land Office at Lakeview, Oregon, September 16, 1908.

Notice is hereby given that Jennie E. Halling, of Klamath Falls, Oregon, w. s., on August 17, 1908, made Timber and Stone application, No. 0282, for sw¹/₄ nw¹/₄, Sec. 24, T. 27 S., R. 2 E., W. M., has filed notice of intention to make final proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before County Clerk Klamath Co., at his office, at Klamath Falls Oregon, on the 28th day of November 1908.

Claimant names as witnesses: W. A. Delzell, J. E. Butcher, Jesse C. Cravens, Wilber White, all of Klamath Falls, Oregon.
 J. N. WATSON,
 Register.

9-19

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