IN A COLOMBIAN PRISON

Horrors of Confinement There Described by Gen. Uribe Uribe.

According to a Revolutionary Pamphlet Prisoners Are Tortured to Death as the Easiest Way to Get Rid of Them.

Gen. Rafael Uribe Uribe, a Colombian insurgent General now in this city, has just published a pamphlet containing documents exposing, from the insurgent standpoint, the present political situation and condition of the military prisons in his native country. The first of the documents is an appeal from the liberal political prisoners to be relieved from the sufferings they have endured for over a year in as ill-kept a prison as could well be imagined.

The statements of the appeal rival the stories that came from Morro and similar prisons in Cuba before the outbreak of the Spanish-American war. The building, the pamphlet says, is far too small to accommodate the 200 prisoners huddled into the small space. The sufferings of the confined men is described as being pitiful. So densely are they packed that in order to sleep it is necessary to take turns at lying on the damp, slimy, and filthy floors of the cells.

No sanitary arrangements whatever have been provided, and for over a year, the General says, the wretched inmates have been obliged to breathe the fetid, poisonous air. As a consequence smallpox, typhoid fever, and dysentery have broken out and played havoc with the men. The sick in these cases were not removed from the prisons, but were allowed to spread the contagion among the survivors to such an extent that the government has been accused by its enemies of fostering the diseases as the best means of ridding itself of those persons whom it considers undesirable.

Every day three or four men are taken dead from the prison, and it is estimated that up to the present time over 200 men have died there. Throughout Colombia, the pamphlet says, this bastile is known by the name of the "Cemetery of Official Slaughter House." These statements, the General says, are confirmed by the records published by the official Board of Health.

The condition of the survivors of the experience is said to be beyond pity. Most of them are broken in health, and will never recover.

One of the forms of cruelty practiced in the prison is to drive the heads of the men to the ground to which prisoners are fastened by a hand and foot, to be exposed, naked, to the intense heat of the tropical sun and the rains for hours at a time. It is also stated that men have been driven into the ground of the prison confines and that into these wells prisoners are lowered by ropes tied about the waist and there left to hang, partially suspended in water, until half perished, after which they is said to be intense at night in that high altitude.

Still other prisoners, many of them well known and prominent citizens, are loaded down with chains which they are compelled to drag with them, while for the least infraction of the prison rules they are taken to flog the offender to such an extent that many of the victims have died under the lash. Among those flogged to death to be many young boys ranging from ten to fourteen years of age.

Gen. Uribe says that the method of sending men to prison was that followed in the Spanish Inquisition, a mere anonymous accusation being sufficient to condemn a man, without the pretext of a trial. Other victims, already impoverished by the levying of war contributions, have been sent to the prison because they failed to pay further assessments. Still other prisoners are said to be ordinary farmers, simple-minded, ignorant men, who have been locked up simply to indicate that the prisons overflow with war prisoners taken by the successful party in the revolution.

The appeal of the prisoners concludes with a request to the Commander in Chief that he appoint a court-martial to release, or to condemn to death all the prisoners, the penalty of death being preferable, they say, to the hideous existence they are forced to live.

The other document mentioned in the pamphlet contains the resignation of Gen. Marcellino Pomares, Governor of Cauca, on finding himself powerless to prevent the atrocious barbarities upon his arrival at the capital. The pamphlet further states that although throughout this country the report has been circulated that the prisoners of war, upon the granting of amnesty, had been set free, such is not the case.

The third and last document concerns an alleged refusal of the Roman Catholic clergy of the country to intercede in their offices in behalf of the prisoners in order to obtain a cessation of the cruelties practiced.

WALL STREET AND WILLS.

How Fluctuations in Stocks May Create Lively Times in the Surrogates' Office.

One of the last places which a person would expect to be affected by fluctuations of prices in Wall street is the Surrogates' office. In a way, however, anything suggesting a panic or a boom in the Street always causes a stir there. It is not because the clerks are speculators, as few, if any, of them dabble in stocks. The excitement is caused by those who are interested in filing wills or in obtaining letters of administration.

When a man dies his executor or administrator must have the proper letters signed by the Surrogate before he can handle the property. This usually takes several days' time. If the decedent should have left a number of shares of one of the speculative stocks, and these should be fluctuating in value, the days intervening between the application for letters in the Surrogates' office and the signing of the papers are anxious days for the executor or administrator.

During the recent panic produced by the manipulation of Northern Pacific stock a man who had been named in a will as executor of an estate came rushing into the Surrogate's office. "I want to file my petition for probate. "I want this will put through at once," cried the man. It was on the last day of the panic and he was a most excited individual.

It appeared that in the estate of which he had been named executor there were 100 shares of Northern Pacific. At the time he entered the Surrogates' office the price of the stock was around 800.

"Get this will through at once," he fairly commanded. "I want to sell this stock for the benefit of the estate at once and I cannot assign it until I have my letters."

The clerk tried to explain to him that there was an orderly way of issuing letters and that this way would have to be followed in every case. Just then a report came in that Northern Pacific had gone up to 750. The executor of the will became more excited.

"I must have these letters at once. They mean thousands of dollars to the widow."

Just then the report of the cash sale of Northern Pacific at 1,000 was brought in by a man who had just seen a newspaper bulletin. "The would mean $100,000 to the widow, instead of the $10,000 she expected. I again say I must have these letters at once."

The man was finally quieted down by his own lawyer, who succeeded in making him understand that when the witnesses to the will had been examined and the affidavits waiving citations were filed the Surrogate would sign the letters, but nothing could be done before then. After considerable skirmishing about town all these papers were filled out, and shortly after 2 P. M. the letters were duly signed. By that time it was generally understood that a basis of settlement had been agreed upon among those interested in the stock, and that Northern Pacific would be settled at 150.

This meant a difference of $25,000 to the estate which the anxious executor was interested.

There were other cases during the short panic where executors and administrators worked hard to get the necessary papers which would allow them to dispose of stocks which were either going down in price so rapidly as to threaten their entire annihilation, or else going up so rapidly as to mean unexpected wealth to the beneficiaries interested.

Y. M. C. A. Tents for Peekskill.

As has been its custom for fourteen years past the State Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association will establish tents at the State Camp at Peekskill this year, and will equip them with piano, writing tables, stationery, and other comforts and conveniences free to the soldiers. Superintendent will open the camp on June 1, and the First and Second Batteries and the Seventh Regiment will follow.

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