GEN. RAFAEL URIBE HERE

Colombian Revolutionist Tells of Conditions in His Country.

His Party Waiting for Arms and Ammunition—Uprising in Venezuela Declared to be Unimportant.

Gen. Rafael Uribe Uribe, the Colombian lawyer and revolutionist against the Government of Dr. J. M. Marroquin, was a passenger yesterday on the Red D Line steamship Philadelphia, from La Guayra, Ponce, and San Juan, Porto Rico. A dozen cabin passengers were his traveling companions. Gen. Uribe went to the Savoy Hotel, and last night talked at length of the affairs of his native republic and those of Venezuela, of whose President, Gen. Castro, he is an ardent friend.

"I am made to say," he said in beginning to treat on the subjects he was questioned about, "that my mission to the United States was to purchase arms, ammunition, and vessels for the Colombian revolutionists. I can only state that if I made public such a programme I am very indiscreet."

Smiling grimly at this diplomatic retraction, he went on:

"It would not be prudent for me to say here and now what my plans are. I may say generally that I propose to do all I can for my country in the interest of its prosperity, liberty, and civilization in fighting the Conservative Government of Dr. Marroquin. With my last breath will I labor for its downfall. It is under the heel of the Conservatives and priest-ridden.

"I would like it to be distinctly understood that I am not what is called a military man. I am not by a great deal. I am a lawyer by profession, a student, and a man of fortune. I never resorted to an appeal to arms from selfish motives. I was always a revolutionist because I am a Liberal. We Liberals do not fight because we like to fight, but because we have to fight. There was nothing else to do. The Liberal Party in Colombia was denied all participation in common rights. The policy of the Conservatives toward us was the colonial policy of Spain toward its colonists, the Cubans, for instance.

"At present the conservative party in Colombia is divided. The branch in power is weak and caters to the ignorant masses. The revolutionists are not deterred. They are all over the country in guerrilla bands, if you please, like the Boers, but they are alert. The revolution may appear to die out for a time, but it will simply be dormant. The Liberals who have revolted lack arms and ammunition and so on. These will be provided. Yes, you may say that Gen. Uribe will not be idle.

"Of course many will say, 'Oh, it's another fuss in one of the American republics.' That may be, but we are aiming high; our standard is the United States of America. We want a Government on those lines. Why, I hardly exaggerate when I say that Tammany Hall, with Croker, would be welcomed as an improvement on the present Colombian system. The Liberal Party, the democracy, is the party of advancement; the Conservative Party, Marroquin's, the party of aristocracy, of retrogression.

"I correct a general impression by saying that I was never General in Chief of the revolutionists in Colombia. At present the military leader is Gen. Vargas Santos, who is now at Curacao. The Conservatives have never found a man to replace the late Gen. Pinzon. In regard to revolutionary movements in the near future, I can reveal nothing. I may say, however, that I do not suppose that complications will be brought about by an uprising in Panama.

"I am a friend of Gen. Castro, President of the Republic of Venezuela, just as I am friendly with the Presidents of Ecuador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Sympathy for the Colombian Liberals is felt and expressed in Venezuela and Ecuador, because the principle involved is patriotism and liberty. What I fear is that the Colombian Conservatives may help the fanatic element in Venezuela. As to the Liberals of each republic, it's a case of common defense. You see your neighbor's house on fire and you try to put it out for fear the flames may reach your own.

"I have just come from Venezuela and have had opportunities to determine that Gen. Castro's administration is strong. There are only isolated revolutionists in the east, none in the centre and the west. There is nothing in the revolution to make it important. The only leader of consequence in the movement against Gen. Castro was Gen. Hernandez. He is in prison ill and out of his mind. Gen. Andrade, now in Cuba, has no following. I regard his expedition as futile. Gen. Castro's Government has ample means to thwart any attempt he may make. The real peril to Venezuela lies in Manuel Casabianca, the present Colombian envoy. He was born in Venezuela and it is suspected that he was selected by the Marroquin Government to foment a revolution against Gen. Castro and to enable the Colombian Conservatives to send troops surreptitiously to aid the Venezuelan revolutionists.

"I cannot say how long I shall be in New York. I have a wife and six children at Bogota, and am anxious about them, as they may suffer because of my attitude to the Colombian Government. My house at Bogota has been stoned already. I hope to get my family away from there. If the revolution fails, I may settle down here."

Gen. Uribe is forty years old. He was born at Medella, the capital of the Department of Antioqua, and studied law until he became Attorney General of Antioqua. He has a large coffee plantation in this province and has wide reputation as a publicist. He wrote much for the Colombian newspaper El Autonomista. His first appearance as a revolutionist was in 1876, and he took part in the uprisings of 1879, 1885, 1895, and the present revolution, which began in 1899. He took part in fifty engagements. He once represented the Liberals in the Colombian Chamber of Deputies.

Another passenger on the Philadelphia was Col. Victor Backus of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana United States Volunteers. He said that when he left Caracas there was nothing to indicate that the revolution was serious. "In my judgment," he added, "the outlook for Gen. Castro is of the best. I take little stock in the stories about an entanglement with this Government over the asphalt question." His traveling companions, Charles E. Pratt and Clarence C. Irish of 302 Garfield Place, Brooklyn, had similar views.

Also on the Philadelphia was Ambrose H. Carner, Managing Director of the New York and Bermudez Company. Mr. Carner said at the Hotel Manhattan last night that while of course he had come here prepared to support the rights of his corporation, he did not see his way clear to say anything about the asphalt controversy or about Venezuelan affairs.

Capt. J. Chambers of the Philadelphia said that he tied up at La Guayra three days and saw no indication that the Castro Government was unstable. "No one," he added, "appeared to be bothering about Andrade."

The New York Times
Published: February 5, 1901
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