

ARMY RULES CUBA TO PROTECT SUGAR

Death Sentence for Sabotage
Decreed as Constitutional
Rights Are Suspended.

AMERICAN MILL BURNED

Other Fires Mark Opening of the
Grinding Season — Radical
Threats Cause Alarm.

Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAVANA, Jan. 15.—In an effort to protect the new sugar crop, the Cuban Government today suspended constitutional guarantees throughout the island for a period of ninety days and fixed a penalty of life imprisonment or death for those convicted of setting cane fields afire or for other acts of sabotage.

The suspension of guarantees, which turns the control of the island over to the military authorities, was effected owing to fears by the government that attempts will be made by its enemies to interrupt and prevent the grinding of the cane during the next few months.

Several instances of sabotage occurred in various parts of the island today, the date set by Presidential decree as the beginning of the grinding season.

The Hershey sugar mill, an American company, located in Havana Province, and cane loading machines on several plantations were burned today. The fires were apparently of an incendiary origin, according to the authorities.

An attempt was made to burn a gasoline tank containing 1,750 gallons in the railway yards of the United Railways at the city of Cardenas this morning, but employes were able to extinguish the fire, which authorities term of incendiary origin.

A bomb exploded on the railway line of the Progreso sugar mill in Matanzas Province, destroying a section of the track.

Penal codes were modified to permit the imposition of life imprisonment or the death penalty. Executions decreed under this decree, however, will not be carried out by the Mendieta Government, since the Constitution of the provisional government prohibits the death penalty.

Many officials of the Machado régime are now in prison under death sentence, who will not be executed until the installation of a government duly elected by the people.

Threats of radical elements that the present sugar crop would never be ground this year have greatly perturbed foreign banking interests, sugar mill owners and Cuban planters. While today was fixed by the government for commencing the grinding season, only a few mills have started to work and it is expected some time will elapse before many mills get under way.