

The Real and Personal Estate of Absentees Sequestered—Jose Morales, Lemus and Others Specified.

HAVANA, April 17, 1893.

Evidently the recent comments of the press of this city on the subject of confiscation of the property of absentees were inspired by the government in order to familiarize the people with an idea so repugnant to every sense of right and justice. It would be strange, indeed, if Spain, with her antecedents, should allow her treasury or the "truly loyal" of her citizens to suffer when the property of her enemy is within her grasp, and the example of the "Great Republic," her neighbor, is so fresh in her mind. Nevertheless, in his incipient steps toward confiscation, as affecting the disloyal absentees, General Dulce finds a long-winded apology necessary in order to satisfy himself and the world. His embargo of property, as provided for in the decree attached, is evidently but the forerunner of a system about to be established, which will deprive every "disloyal" person of the island of his property and go to a considerable extent in recruiting the exchequer of the nation. In his anxiety to prevent the escape from his grasp of any property of disloyal holders, as will be seen, he throws such clogs and obstructions about the wheels of commerce as will no doubt practically paralyze it and necessitate some modification at an early day.

Preceding his decree General Dulce addresses a long communication to the City Governor, evidently intended, however, for the public and filled with explanations and excuses for his action. By the decree, as will be seen, moreover, the monstrous injustice is perpetrated of compelling all absent persons to establish their innocence. The various documents are as follows:—

TO THE GOVERNOR OF ————
CIRCULAR.
 A printed paper has been received by mail and profusely circulated, signed Jose Morales Lemus, President of the Central Republican Junta of Cuba and our Hico. On perusal of that document important considerations arise, which, I, the first and superior authority of this Spanish province, and responsible as I am to my country for the integrity of its territory, can but take into account.

The borders of the field are marked with the hoisted banner of the enemy of our patria. Not the most dreaded are those who from one wood to another and from hill to hill avoid an encounter with our soldiers, because even thus there is something noble in their cowardice. They struggle in their own way and invariably strew the field with their blood. From the outset they announced where they were going, and proclaimed the independence of the country which gave them birth, forgetting, it is true, that they were Spaniards, and will ever be, though against their own will, because the language, religion, customs and the blood of life constitute for man the true patria. More guilty of the crime of treason are those who, with crafty humility and cringing hypocrisy, demanded political rights as the only remedy for our disorders, and when these were vouchsafed to them, responded with the blackest ingratitude. From that day forward their machinations have been the only and exclusive object of my attention. From that day I have followed their passages and even watched their intentions. On one solemn occasion, by preventive measures, I let them see that their projects were not unknown to me. Nevertheless, precipitate and blind as they were, they have not kept within the limits of their habitual prudence, and they themselves, with the document mentioned, hasten by justifying the measures already taken those provisions whose immediate application your Excellency will receive, if not already at hand, with instructions of a private character, in accordance with the system of infrangible rigor which I have proposed to myself to follow—the more expedient now that the armed rebellion has commenced its period of agony than when it boasted of a show of vigor in the Eastern, Central and Western Departments. By that document, which, if what is therein recommended were realized, would enable its authors to discover a mine of gold for their individual vices and advantages, it is intended to frighten the timid, to flatter and cajole the instincts of the avaricious and to menace those who, true to Spanish tradition, will never be perfidious, and much less traitors.

As your Excellency will conceive, neither the devotion to doctrines nor veneration of principles will deter me from that which the tranquility of families and the salvation of property may counsel me. The armed insurrection being overcome and conquered it is high time that the severe application of certain laws drain the fountain where the hidden instigators of this fratricidal struggle seek and find their resources, because the common interests demand it, as well as equity and public opinion. Therefore I charge your Excellency to use a prudent vigilance. Do not compromise by a cautious excess of petulism the fulfillment of the order. Any omission or want of care, however insignificant, will impose your Excellency may have received and may receive hereafter, pose upon me the painful duty of punishing you with all the rigor of the law.

May God protect you many years.
 HAVANA, April 14, 1893. DOMINGO DULCE.

The foregoing, a preparatory document forwarded to the various Governors throughout the island, was succeeded by the following:—

TO THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL OF ————
CIRCULAR.
 Under date of the 1st inst. I stated to the City Governor of this capital the following:—

"ILLUSTRIOUS SENOR—Your Excellency will proceed immediately and without a moment's notice to embargo all the estates and other properties which belong to Jose Morales Lemus, Nestor, Ponce de Leon, Manuel Casanova, Jose Mestre, Jose M. Basora, Jose Fernandez Criado, Antonio Fernandez Bramozio, Jose M. Mora, Ramon Aguirre, Javier Claveria, Tomas Mora, Federico Mora, Federico Galvez, Francisco Izquierdo, Plutarco Gonzalez and Joaquin Delgado may possess in this island, as long as no assurances be given that they have scrupulously fulfilled all the requisites the law prescribes for passing beyond these dominions."

Copy of the foregoing is transmitted to your Excellency for your information, and in order that you will forthwith proceed in the embargo of all the estates and properties which the individuals mentioned may possess in your jurisdiction. May God preserve your Excellency many years.
 HAVANA, April 14, 1893. DOMINGO DULCE.

DECREE.
 It is the duty of every Governor to provide for the security of the territory entrusted to his command. He of this province, being computed by an unauthorized and uncalled for insurrection, at whose cry certain rich districts are depopulated and ruined, it becomes indispensable to adopt as many means as may be efficacious to annihilate the enemy of our nationality, mainly depriving them of all the resources at their command to sustain the aggression. With this view, and as it may happen that sales of property may be made for illegitimate purposes, in which case those compacts are null and void in accordance with the law, and in virtue of the extraordinary and discretionary power vested in me by the supreme government of the nation, I have decreed the following:—

- ARTICLE 1. All contracts of sale of movable and immovable properties, before being effected, have henceforth to be presented for revision by the government.
- ART. 2. For the fulfillment of this order all compacts made in the District of Havana have to be presented to the secretary of the superior political government, and those made in the other jurisdictions to the governors and lieutenant governors.
- ART. 3. The presentation of private contracts of sale is to be made personally by the parties interested, and those by public writ by the notary public, before being executed—the original document in the former and the minutes in the latter case.
- ART. 4. Once revised by the government, the contract cannot be changed or modified in any manner whatever, unless preceded by a new revision, under penalty of nullification of the modification.
- ART. 5. The sale of produce and other articles of export trade, as likewise the transfer of stock are equally subject to the revision as notified.
- ART. 6. When the sales last mentioned be effected by a sworn broker he is to present the contract for revision in the customary mercantile form, otherwise the contracting parties are to make the presentation.
- ART. 7. The functionaries of anonymous and *comanditas* joint stock companies, who in accordance with their respective regulations have to authorize the transfer of stock on the books of the companies, are not to do so until duly authorized thereto by the government, and for this purpose they are to give notice to the government of transfers, stating the names of contracting parties, their residence and the number and value of the shares to be transferred.
- ART. 8. In order not to obstruct the sale of movable and immovable estate anywhere whatever, and much less the mercantile transactions, the government will grant or withhold its approbation of the former within four days and of the latter within twenty-four hours from the time the documents are presented.
- ART. 9. The sales of all property effected without the requisite revision shall be null and void, and all private individuals, merchants, brokers, managers of joint stock companies and notaries public, who contravene the provisions in this decree, will incur the penalties established by the Penal Code. (Chap. 5, tit. 8, lib. 2.)

HAVANA, April 1, 1893. DOMINGO DULCE.

With the publication of the foregoing the City Governor issues the following:—

The estates belonging to the before mentioned in the foregoing circular having been embargoed by the order of his Excellency, the Superior Political Governor, all persons having money, valuables or goods of any kind whatever belonging to the persons above mentioned, must immediately give an account to the Political Governor, being held responsible for any concealment or other means of eluding the fulfillment of that order, positively prohibiting them from buying, selling, paying, transferring, ceding, and of themselves effecting any operation touching or relating to the properties of the estates embargoed, it being well understood that such infractions are comprehended in the provisions of disloyalty, by decree of his Excellency, the Superior Political Governor, dated the 18th of February last, and will consequently be subjected to the Council of War.

HAVANA, April 15, 1893. DIONISIO LOPEZ ROBERTS.

The press of the city are, of course, very much pleased with the embargo, as they would be with any action of the government on this or any other point, and the *Foz de Cuba*, in its issue of last evening, in an article headed "At Last," goes into a very ecstasy over the matter.

Letter from an American—The True Condition of Affairs—Not so Many Cubans Killed as Reported—State of Feeling in the Country—The Revolution Must Succeed or the Cubans Perish.

NUEVITAS, April 11, 1893.

As I have opportunities that few if any others have of obtaining information from those who are in the field, as well as those in the city, for the benefit of your readers I have concluded to give you all the items of interest that occur in this section of the country.

At present there is very little to write about, inasmuch as the Cubans or so-called insurrectionists have remained quiet during the past few weeks, for reasons, I suppose, best known to themselves.

Sunday, March 21, the steamers arrived from Havana with about 400 troops for Maniti. At the request of the Governor of this place they delayed their departure for a few days for the purpose of making a raid into the interior of the country. This object was accomplished on the morning of March 22, accompanied by a number of the troops stationed at this port and the volunteers. They went a short distance into the country, to a large farm (formerly a sugar plantation), known as Buena Vista, the owner—a planter by the name of Mola, residing at present in the city of Puerto Principe—being a Cuban, and of course they concluded his sympathies were with his countrymen, and, as a number of the troops were under the influence of liquor,

they put their torch to the houses connected with the plantation drove off 200 head of cattle, bringing them into Nuevitaa. These were sold by the Governor, instead of having them slaughtered for the benefit of the poor people who are at present in want of food. Having encountered none of the enemy the troops embarked for Maniti.

Wednesday, March 30, the volunteers and soldiers, about 200 in number, under the command of the Governor, made a raid on the charcoal burners in the vicinity of Punta Pedro. In one of the cabins they found five men with their families, one of the number having a paper on his person written by the Cuban General Arango. The troops became exasperated and shot them all, including an old man, who seemed to be, as one of the volunteers afterwards remarked, over eighty years of age. After performing this act they returned to Nuevitaa, crying "¡Viva España!" as they entered. Whether this was a crime worthy of the friends of the soldiers of Spain is for your readers to judge.

I see in one of your late numbers an account of the slight skirmish that took place between the command under General Lesca and a portion of Quesada's command when the former marched on the town of San Miguel. According to this account (Spanish, of course), thirty of the rebels were killed, including their surgeon. As I happened to be in the vicinity of the fight at that time I can assure your readers that but one Cuban was killed on that occasion, and that was the doctor, who, being a fanatic in the cause of liberty, rushed out from his companions and was wounded in the head. Afterward the surgeon of the troops, as I heard him in Nuevitaa the next day acknowledge, pierced his heart with his knife, taking his instruments as a trophy. This is a fact beyond denial.

Cuba is in a bad condition from the bitterness and excitement that prevails among the volunteers and troops on the one side and the thirst for revenge by the Cubans on the other. Between the two no man's life is safe. He knows not the minute nor the hour that he may be called upon to face his God. The troops hold all the cities and towns, while the Cubans have possession of the interior; therefore the Spanish authorities claim that those who do not reside in the towns are insurrectionists. There being no employment in the cities, the poor people must remain in the country and take the result. In my opinion the island will soon be in a most deplorable condition if some foreign Power does not interfere.

The Cubans in the field have staked their lives, fortunes and future happiness upon the result. They are aware of the fact that if their cause is lost they will be held under greater contempt than they are at present. They will hold the same position to the Spaniards as their former slaves held to them. No one can imagine how the Cuban is despaired by those Spaniards who live upon the fat of the island and who now constitute the volunteers. If the government succeeds in putting down the revolution, even for a time, God help the Cubans, especially those who are involved in this affair!

As an instance of the love that the Spaniard has for the people of the "Ever Faithful Isle," let me say that a colonel of the army remarked the other day that the only thing he regretted was that his children had a drop of Cuban blood in their veins. Let this man be able to live in style at the expense of those he holds in such contempt.

Mr. Richard Gibbs, American consular agent at this port, having departed for New York, the position is now held by Mr. Adolpho Price, an American gentleman, formerly part owner of the sugar plantation known as San José, but at present the headquarters of the rebel chief Quesada.