

# Cuba Is Free of 'El Pote'

Island Republic Rejoices at the Death of its Richest Millionaire.

## CRUEL POWER OF WEALTH

Peasant Trod Down Millions as He Piled up Riches on Misfortunes of Others—Lived and Died a Brute.

Havana.—"El Pote" is dead and all Cuba rejoices. The peasant who became a millionaire many times over and used his wealth to wield a cruel power died as he had lived, haunted and hated, a victim of his own power. In 40 years he established a career lurid with tragedy, dark with sordid scheming, tremendous with both success and failure. A year ago reputed the richest man in Cuba, he came to a miserable end at his own hands, and almost his last words were that the wealth which cost him 40 years of unremitting toil to accumulate did not yield him one hour of happiness.

Jose Lopez Rodriguez was known to virtually every one in Cuba. He was a strange, sinister figure, and even in death he furnishes a remarkable example of what can be accomplished by the constant, ruthless application of power to a single task. Ferve el Pote (the pot boils) was his watchword, his motto, the rule of his sordid life, and it was from this that he came to be called "El Pote," the name with which millions became familiar. For years he thrived, at the expense of others. Then the fortunes of war turned against him, and, fearing the loss of all his ill-gotten gains, he committed suicide by hanging himself with a twisted sheet.

### Filthy of Body.

Not more than five feet in height, "El Pote" had the powerful, thickest frame typical of the Gallego peasant. He wore the oldest clothes he could find and was foul of mind and speech and filthy of body.

Jose Lopez Rodriguez was born in Spain and emigrated to Cuba in his fifteenth year, fleeing from the hard conditions of the Gallego peasant life. In Havana for a while he worked with pick and shovel, but as soon as he could he abandoned such hard manual labor to work for an old second-hand book dealer, peddling the books from house to house. One morning his aged employer was found dead in his bed and young Lopez Rodriguez, who slept on the premises, was arrested on suspicion of murder, but after spending some time in prison he was released for lack of sufficient evidence to indict.

The widow of the murdered book-dealer continued the business and Lopez Rodriguez, after his release from prison returned to his old employment. One morning the widow was found hanging in her room, but, no evidence being found to confirm a suspicion that there had been foul play, a verdict of suicide was returned. By the time the young employee had saved up some money and he bought the business.

### Piles Dollar on Dollar.

Living upon almost nothing and working tirelessly, he steadily increased his trade and piled one dollar on another until with the passage of the years his fortune grew to respectable dimensions.

When, after the wealth of Cubans had been drained by three years of revolution and embargo, the American fleet blockaded Havana in 1898, "El Pote"—for by that time he had come universally to be known by his sobriquet—was able to acquire for cash large properties for a little of their value, and when the Cuban republic was set up he was a rich man among men who had been ruined. The latter were compelled to go to him for cash which he alone was able to lend. And so it came to pass that many of those

to whom the government of the young republic was entrusted were his debtors—which he never allowed them to forget.

He secured a monopoly on all Cuban printing, for which scandalous scores went to jail. Then he got control of one of the biggest banks and wrecked that, "borrowing" no less than \$11,000,000 without security of any kind. He loaned millions, but always demanded from 50 to 100 per cent interest.

It is believed that after the payment of all debts the estate of Jose Lopez Rodriguez will be worth somewhere around \$10,000,000, proving that it was not the fear of penny that drove him to end his life in the fashion by which his employer 40 years ago had died and which had marked the beginning of his own prosperity.

### Hogs' Snouts Do Plowing.

Woodstock, Ont.—Hogs take the place of plows and harrows in the cultivation of one of the best producing small apple orchards in Ontario. Most orchardists plow and re-plow and harrow and ditch the land between the rows of trees. J. W. Tuttle of Currie merely turns in a drove of hogs.

# \$66,000 Thief Given 3 Years

Memphis Teller for 12 Years Missed Vacations to Shield His Shortage.

## COURT GETS HIS CONFESSION

Began With \$100 Holdout and Lived in Hope of Making All Good—Never Missed a Day or Was Late—Strain Was Terrible.

Memphis, Tenn.—Alex V. Smith, formerly note teller for the First National bank, stood convicted, but elated with a three-year term, given to him after he had confessed to a \$66,000.37 peculation and pleaded guilty.

During the 12 years Smith was connected with the bank he never took a vacation, never was absent or late in reporting for duty. He told reporters in order to cover up the shortage he had to be continually on the job.

John D. Martin, Smith's counsel, read a copy of Smith's confession to the court in his plea for leniency. The confession says:

"I, Alex V. Smith of Raleigh, Tenn., do hereby make confession.

"I was born in Liverpool, England, on June 8, 1885. I left England and came to the United States when I was about twenty-two years old. After a short stay in New York city I came to Memphis, Tenn., and became a bank clerk in the employ of the Bank of Commerce of Memphis, where I worked for about nine months. I then entered the employ of the First National bank of Memphis, Tenn., and was continuously employed there until January 13, 1921. I was note teller at the First National bank for about 12 consecutive years. During this time I gave diligent attention to the duties of the position.

"About 11 years ago, one day after the vaults were closed, to accommodate a customer I took a deposit of about \$100. That night I used this money to pay a debt, hoping to replace it immediately. It was never replaced, and the shortage grew, until January 12, 1921, it amounted to \$66,501.37.

"My method of concealment was throughout the entire period of short-

age to hold for a day or two, then remit, being in the manner always short in my remittances.

"I married about eight years ago, and at the time of my marriage my shortage was comparatively small. My family consists of my wife, aged thirty-one years, and three children, Alex V. Jr., aged seven; Jim Mangrum, aged six, and Jay Shaw, aged two years, nine months.

"The moneys which I embezzled from the bank were absorbed in my personal expense and extravagances. I have not dissipated money in gambling or speculation. I have, of course, entertained the vague hope that I could make restitution of these peculations, but have been crushed with the realization that this was impossible.

"Strain Has Been Terrible.

"The strain of my situation has, of course, been terrible, and I have suffered immense mental torture for years.

"I have been unable to obtain sufficient sleep or rest except through the use of intoxicants, and have been compelled to resort to the same means as a stimulant to enable me to discharge the regular duties of my office.

"It is my intention and desire that in the event there should be an indictment returned against me on account of my wrongdoing to immediately enter a plea of guilty to the same and throw myself without reservation upon the mercy of the court.

"It is my desire to receive such penalty as may be inflicted on me as speedily as possible, it being my deep desire, after I have met my punishment, to rise again and be a man. It will be my earnest effort to make good, in the fullest measure possible, the loss which has been occasioned as the result of my wrongdoing."

After the shortage was discovered Smith says regarding his conversation with bank officials:

"I gave them the exact figures, to wit, \$66,001.37, together with all data and documents pertaining thereto, thereby enabling the officials of the bank to make a speedy adjustment of their records. I gave the exact amount of my shortage as stated above, so that the bank would not be put to the necessity of a long, laborious and expensive audit of my accounts.

## WOMEN'S WATCH TOWER



The National Woman's party is coming into its own again and has bought a new home which will be a regular "political watch tower" to the capitol, which is within a stone's throw. The home is one of the most historic in Washington, having been the meeting place of congress from 1815 to 1819 while the capitol was being rebuilt, and was the scene of President Monroe's inauguration.

## CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

State officials will soon turn over to some soldiers' organization \$50,000, to be used for helping ex-service men of the world war who are in dire need and are not being taken care of by the federal government. The last legislature provided a trust fund of \$2,000,000, the interest of which will be used for Nebraska veterans. Since interest would not be available this year, \$50,000 was appropriated for immediate use. It is quite likely the American Legion will be selected to administer this fund, and that local posts throughout the state will be asked to investigate and recommend action on all applicants for aid.

Twenty special traffic officers, cooperating with the police department, raided the streets of Fremont the other night in search of auto headlight and tail light violators. Cops were stationed at intervals along the busiest streets and all offenders were either escorted to the police station or given notice to appear for trial. Over 100 drivers, among whom were many prominent citizens, were victims of the law enforcers. No fines were levied, however, and bond money was refunded with lectures to obey the law in the future.

Complete return from 89 of the 93 counties received by W. H. Osborne, state tax commissioner at Lincoln, shows the total personal property assessed in 1921 to be \$866,159,065 against \$1,006,812,505 in 1920, a decrease of 24.15 per cent. The value of all property returned by the 89 counties in 1921 is \$4,211,498,553. Following their equalization it is found that the value has been decreased to \$3,200,305,415.

J. E. Hagl, secretary of the department of trade and commerce, announced that a levy must be placed against the guaranty fund of \$150,000 to pay depositors of the Ceresco State bank, which failed recently. In a short time Hagl expects to make other levies amounting to approximately \$300,000, to pay depositors in banks at Allen, Holdrege and Hoskins.

Hanks and French, near Gering, have completed the harvesting and threshing of 1,170 acres of wheat. With four combined harvesters and threshers they cut the entire acreage in eight days, sacked the wheat and hauled it to market. They claim this to be the record for harvesting and threshing in Nebraska.

George Dimig reports the largest yield of wheat raised in York county this season. He threshed 11 acres, which he sowed last fall with Kanred wheat, imported from Kansas, averaging 50.8 bushels per acre. He also threshed 430 bushels of barley from 15 acres.

A two-months' drought was broken in Big Spring when an inch of rain fell in a few minutes. Lawns and gardens in town have been burned up owing to lack of moisture. The country surrounding the town has had several good rains, insuring a good crop of corn.

Work is progressing rapidly in the City park at West Point in preparation for the big cantonment of the Patriarchs Militant of the I. O. O. F. of Nebraska, which will be held there this month.

A malady contracted by Mrs. Dean Mohr so baffled Colridge physicians that Dr. J. Williams, nerve specialist of St. Louis City, was sent for. The diagnosis revealed a peculiar case of sleeping sickness.

Dodge county threshers are showing that the wheat yield of the county is exceeding the early estimate and the farmers are as a general rule well satisfied with their small grain crop.

Arrangements are being completed by the Deshler Light and Power company for the construction of several country electric light transmission lines for use of farmers.

Hog Cholera among the hogs in various herds in the vicinity of York is reported at this time. Every effort is being made to stamp the disease out.

J. C. McCorkle, near Alliance, threshed 140 acres of wheat, which yielded 50 bushels per acre.

Mason City will hold a three-day Home-coming celebration, August 3-4-5.

The Fall City firemen are advertising a three day tournament for August 25-26-27.

At a meeting of the entire membership of the Shifters' club held at Superior, further arrangements were made for the big historical pageant which is to be enacted August 16 and 17. The plans for the G. A. R. reunion, which is to be held in conjunction with the pageant, were submitted.

Application for issuance of \$200,000 worth of new stock in the Wells-Abbott-Nierman milling corporation at Schuyler, will be made to the state authorities. The new stock will solve financial difficulties of the company, according to advices from Schuyler.

Dr. E. E. Stauffer, president of Midland college and delegate to the International Rotary convention held in Edinburgh, Scotland, returned to Fremont after a two months' absence in Europe. He visited various nations following the Rotary conference.

The Omaha central labor union plans to organize a bank with \$5,000,000 in deposits to begin with. Organizers are now at work and it is hoped to have the bank in business before snow flies. The institution will be controlled entirely by labor and will cater to union members.

George Schwesler, cr., of David City, just celebrated his 70th birthday and in honor of this event 1,200 persons were served with cake and lemonade in the newly-completed basement of the Schwesler department store. The cake measured 50 by 36 inches and was two and a half feet high. It contained 10 layers and weighed 245 pounds. The contents of the cake were 75 pounds of powdered sugar, 35 pounds of granulated sugar, 40 pounds of creamery butter, 35 pounds of flour and 60 dozen or 720 eggs. It carried 70 red candles.

A fight over the location of the school house was terminated at Ellisworth quite abruptly when two members and leaders of the minority faction loaded the building on skids at night and hauled it with a tractor two and one-half miles to their own location. It is stated that this move ended the controversy as the majority leaders have given up the fight.

The permanent injunction asked by the village of Davenport in a suit against the Mayer Hydro Electric Power company was granted in a decision handed down by Judge L. W. Colby. The defendant company asked higher rates than its franchise called for, and a temporary injunction was granted until a hearing on the matter could be held in the district court. Under the terms of the decision the former rate will remain in force.

Judge S. P. Davidson and family of Tecumseh are camped at the J. O. Roach resort, near Boxton, in the mountains of Colorado. Miss Ruth Davidson, 20, was lost in the mountains for 10 hours and was unconscious when found by a searching party. Miss Davidson had gone for a walk in the Needle Butte mountains and lost her way. She roamed about in the mountains for hours, seriously frightened and finally fell from a small cliff and lost consciousness.

The farm bureau picnic for Madison county, was held at the Andy Tomhagan grove southeast of Battle Creek. It was estimated that 22,000 attended the picnic. Business houses closed for the event. The program included addresses by C. W. Pugsley and Professor H. C. Filley of the University of Nebraska, and concerts by the Norfolk, Madison, Newman Grove and Battle Creek bands.

The campaign to raise \$35,200 to secure the air carnival for Omaha this fall is well under way and everything points to the success of the movement. Not less than 200 aviators are expected to come with their machines to participate in the flights and carry away the prize money. The air mail flying field on West Center street will be used.

At a meeting held at Grand Island called by the president of the Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth infantry organization, which was a part of the Eighty-ninth division, preliminaries were laid for the reunion, which will be held on August 30 and 31. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., is expected to address the gathering and about 1,200 men are expected.

A grain shocker invented and constructed by J. F. Griffith of Abion is said to perform work from 90 to 95 per cent perfect. Griffith has been at work on the machine for twelve years. A local company was formed here in 1916, five years before the model was completed, to handle the invention and manufacture the machine.

The telephone strike at Bloomfield has been called off and the patrons will soon receive first-class service again. The strike of the patrons was called last April when the telephone company advertised an increase in its rates.

The special bond election here, asking for \$165,000 additional money with which to complete Norfolk's new half million dollar high school building, was successfully carried.

In the report of County Assessor F. C. Rundle of Aurora the total valuation of the county is \$4,331,365. Last year the total was \$51,033,475.

A contract has been awarded a Kansas City firm for the erection of a new \$75,000 electric light and power plant at Pawnee City.

The state board of equalization has refused to lower the assessment of Nebraska railroads, demanded by representatives.

A car shortage is reported in Chapman. All the elevators are full and the shortage is proving a handicap to the farmers.

The postoffice at Mead, was broken into by burglars and about \$200 worth of stamps were stolen.

A torrential rain in Madison county did much damage to the growing crops. 185 new laws passed by the last legislature, went into effect this week.

Through the efforts of the Community club and the Business Men's club a band is assured in Stanton. A. D. Hlava of Ravenna will take charge of the band.

Heroic efforts of nurses saved the lives of patients in the Arapahoe hospital when fire broke out in the building. After the patients had been rescued, workers succeeded in saving most of the fixtures. The blaze, which was started by an electric iron, did damage estimated at \$5,600. The fire was checked before the whole building was destroyed.

At a meeting of the Live Stock Breeders' association at Tecumseh, the new sales pavilion became a reality. It was voted to build one 200 feet by 30 feet, with a sales ring 40 by 40 feet in the center.

Harry Hausen, Deputy State fire marshal, has just completed the investigation of a fire at the home of Judge S. E. Twist, at Sateem. The fire had been started in nine different places, Judge Twist recently received three blackhand letters, demanding his resignation from the city council, which he had ignored.

## IS RESTLESS AGE

Children Only Follow the Example of Their Parents.

Newspaper Asks the Pertinent Question Whether It Is Not Time to Stop and Think.

"The poor little rich girl" is no fiction, as is demonstrated from time to time when surveys are taken of children to determine the causes of malnutrition and over-fatigue. The children of the wealthy or well-to-do more often than the children of the poor are found to be under weight or nervous. Sometimes the trouble is due to careless or improper feeding, though oftener to the complexity of modern life, says Dr. Borden S. Veeden of St. Louis, speaking before the section on the diseases of children at the meeting of the American Medical association, in session in Boston, the Oklahoma states.

"My little girl never has a leisure hour—in fact, she is just as busy as I am," said a mother to me one day.

"We just cannot keep our children at home in the evening," said another mother. "We have made a rule that they could not go out to parties or clubs except on Friday and Saturday nights, but we find we cannot enforce it."

It's the same old story—keeping up with Lizzie.

If your neighbor's child must be on the "go" continually, then, in order to keep the pace, your child must follow that silly example. At least that seems to be the popular supposition—keep up with Lizzie if you undermine your health, if you fail to secure a sound education, if you prepare for failure instead of success.

It is not surprising if the children and young people of today are eternally restless, if they never are content to remain at home, if they find life intolerable when their days and nights are not crowded with pleasure and amusements. Children always follow the example of their parents. When the mother belongs to three or four card clubs, a literary club or two, attends luncheons, teas and dinners, plays golf, sits on committees, dabbles a little in politics, what can you expect of the children? Growing up in an atmosphere where there is no quiet or repose, it is inevitable that children should be restless, continually seeking after new excitements, competing socially with those in their own circle, bent on being seen everywhere and having a good time at all costs. When a mother who is always going about remonstrates with her children for making so many engagements, that they have no time either for the necessary amount of rest or study, it is not surprising that her remarks carry no conviction.

When either children or adults spend their lives rushing from one place to another, from one pleasure to another, what have they, in the end, to show for their scattering of energy, their expenditure of time?

Women today are highly organized in culture clubs, patrons' clubs, and civic societies. Why do they not get together on this problem of conserving the time and energy of their children, saving a part of it from the eternal program of joy rides, dances, clubs and picture shows?

Seek Origin of Granites.

Two Harvard geologists, Professors Reginald A. Daly and Charles Palache, accompanied by Dr. G. A. F. Molengraaf, a Dutch scientist, plan to spend the early months of 1922 in an expedition to South Africa to study unusual geological formations in that region, the university announced recently.

Dr. Fred E. Wright, petrologist of the geo-physical laboratory at Washington, will accompany the party as the representative of the Carnegie Institution.

The chief object of the scientists, who plan to leave England next January, will be the study of a body of obtrusive rock north of Pretoria, and they hope that their investigations will shed some light on the origin of granite, which has long perplexed geologists.

Dr. Molengraaf was formerly chief geologist of the Transvaal republic. He has also done considerable work in the East Indies.

Photography as a Sculptor.

Baese, of Florence, Italy, invented a process for producing bas-reliefs by photography. The basis of the invention is the property possessed by a film of chromium gelatin of swelling in proportion to the intensity of the light falling upon it. The swelling is greater with low than with high intensity, so that the light passing through a photographic negative produces upon a chromium-gelatin plate a positive in distinct relief. The transparency of an ordinary negative, however, is not truly proportional to the relief of the original method, but by an ingenious automatic device, involving a double exposure, this difficulty is avoided, and a negative is obtained having its lights and shades correctly graded to produce the effect of relief.

Coal Could Do More Work.

Based upon the performance of 69 large locomotives operating over nearly 700 miles of route on the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railway, and on other facts of record, it has been estimated that the passenger and revenue freight tonnage of the United States could be hauled by electric locomotives for one-third the coal now burned under steam-engine boilers.

## Sylvia Pankhurst Toasted by Reds



Miss Sylvia Pankhurst (center), who served five months' imprisonment at Holloway for preaching sedition in the British navy, was recently dismissed. Following her "coming out" she was tendered a breakfast in London by the Communist party. This photograph shows the "reds" offering a toast to Miss Pankhurst.

## PAJAMAS "NOBBY" ON STREET

Russ Officer's Garb Leads to Distribution of Garments to Refugees.

Constantinople, Turkey.—American Red Cross and army pajamas are being converted into janjny street clothes here by ingenious Russian refugee soldiers and civilians.

Hugh S. Bird, treasurer of the Red Cross, when here on a visit of inspection, saw a spick-and-span monocled Russian officer flourishing a cane and fanning himself with a straw hat at the local Red Cross offices. He noticed that the man had taken a suit of pajamas, sewed shoulder strap braids on them, strapped his officer's belt about them and rolled up the bottoms to give a trouser effect.

Mr. Bird thought so well of the ingenuity of the man, who had defeated the hot weather, that he gave orders for several thousand more pajamas to be distributed, so no Russian need wear his heavy, shabby winter clothes.

Partridges Alight in Street.

Coatesville, Pa.—A covey of partridges came into this city and alighted on the paved streets in the business section. Volunteer firemen caught a few and placed them in a box, liberating them later in the country. They had become frightened when a cooper's hawk attacked them on the hill.