



CHRISTMAS, 1898, WITH THE FIRST NEBRASKA BOYS AT SANTA MESA.

Taking Cuba's Census

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every part of Cuba on the day set and in a way which would have set the old Spanish census men quite aghast.

In the first place a Cuban supervisor was appointed in each of the six provinces—men of education, worth and honesty. For instance, the supervisor of Matanzas was Prof. Claudio Dumas of the College of Matanzas, a gentleman of high attainments and culture. Sabas Meneses of Santiago was a well-known engineer and so on. Then came the task of appointing the enumerators. The pay for enumeration was to be \$5 a day, a salary of such generous proportions to the average Cuban that it looked like an absolute fortune. Consequently, half the men of Cuba wished to be enumerators and the examinations and inquisitions which followed were full of excitement. Finally the requisite 1,600 were chosen. In Havana province there were 380, in Santiago 326, in Matanzas 202, all of the most intelligent men of Cuba. There were women, too, in Matanzas to the number of fifty-four. The choice of women for such positions was a distinct novelty, but a novelty which was highly popular as well as a distinct advantage to the service, for the women were fully equal to the men in their work. Indeed, the appointment of the women gave the Cubans a new glimpse into the meaning of American rule and made warm friends of thousands of Cuban women.

Experiences of Enumerators.

Each enumerator was supplied with a deep brown canvas bag in which he carried his portfolio of blanks, a bottle of ink, pens and blotting pads. Those in the country rode horseback, visiting every little thatched hut in the land. Down in the southern part of the province of Santa Clara, there is a great swamp known as the Lapata marsh. The enumerator to whom this district fell reported while I was at Matanzas. He limped from a severe wound in his leg where he had been bitten by an alligator, and he reported that in his journeys through the deep everglades he had been forced to kill twenty-two alligators that disputed his way. Here he found natives who had not heard of the closing of the war with Spain and some of them had never even heard of America and the Americans. In Pinar del Rio an enumerator found a settlement of nearly 900 persons "engrooved in the mountains," as he expressed it, entirely out of touch with the outside world, living on plantains and sweet potatoes and governing themselves in a sort of primitive republic. An almost unheard of settlement among the mountains of Santiago puzzled the enumerators far more than anything else. The people were not Cubans, nor Spaniards, nor negroes, but Indians, the only remnant left of the once powerful tribes which inhabited the island when Columbus discovered America. They are few in numbers and shy, and they live in the most primitive manner.

The blanks used were exceedingly simple. They were three in number, all headed

"Censo de la Isla de Cuba bajo la Direccion de los Estados Unidos"—"Census of the Island of Cuba under the Direction of the United States." The first dealt with population, the second with schools and the third with agricultural statistics. The population blank contained spaces for twenty-five names, the first spaces being devoted to the usual questions as to the place of residence, name of person, color, sex, age and whether married or single. Of these questions that of color was the most difficult. The enumerators made three classifications—white, mestizo and black—but if three colors of complexion in Cuba there are a hundred. Moreover, the blacks wanted to be mestizos and the mestizos white. Score of times a black negro would answer the question "What color are you?" with the answer "white."

"But you are black—you are a negro," the enumerator would insist. "No, we are free; didn't we fight to be white men? We are independent white men."

And no amount of persuasion could persuade him that he was not really a "white man," and the enumerator put him down black in spite of himself.

The inquiries as to nativity and occupation were easily answered, but that of citizenship came very hard. Three divisions are given in the blank—Cuban, Spanish or "suspenso," in suspense. To these the enumerator added "extranjero"—stranger or foreigner. It is often difficult to know just where the dividing line comes between Spaniards and Cubans, and in the present bitterness of feeling the difficulty is doubled. Besides that, many Spaniards have not yet registered their intention of remaining Spanish subjects. They are, therefore, "in suspense." Others call themselves Cubans. These classifications of citizenship have been watched very closely by the Cubans, for the "suspensos" may play an important part in the elections when they take place.

School and Sanitary Questions.

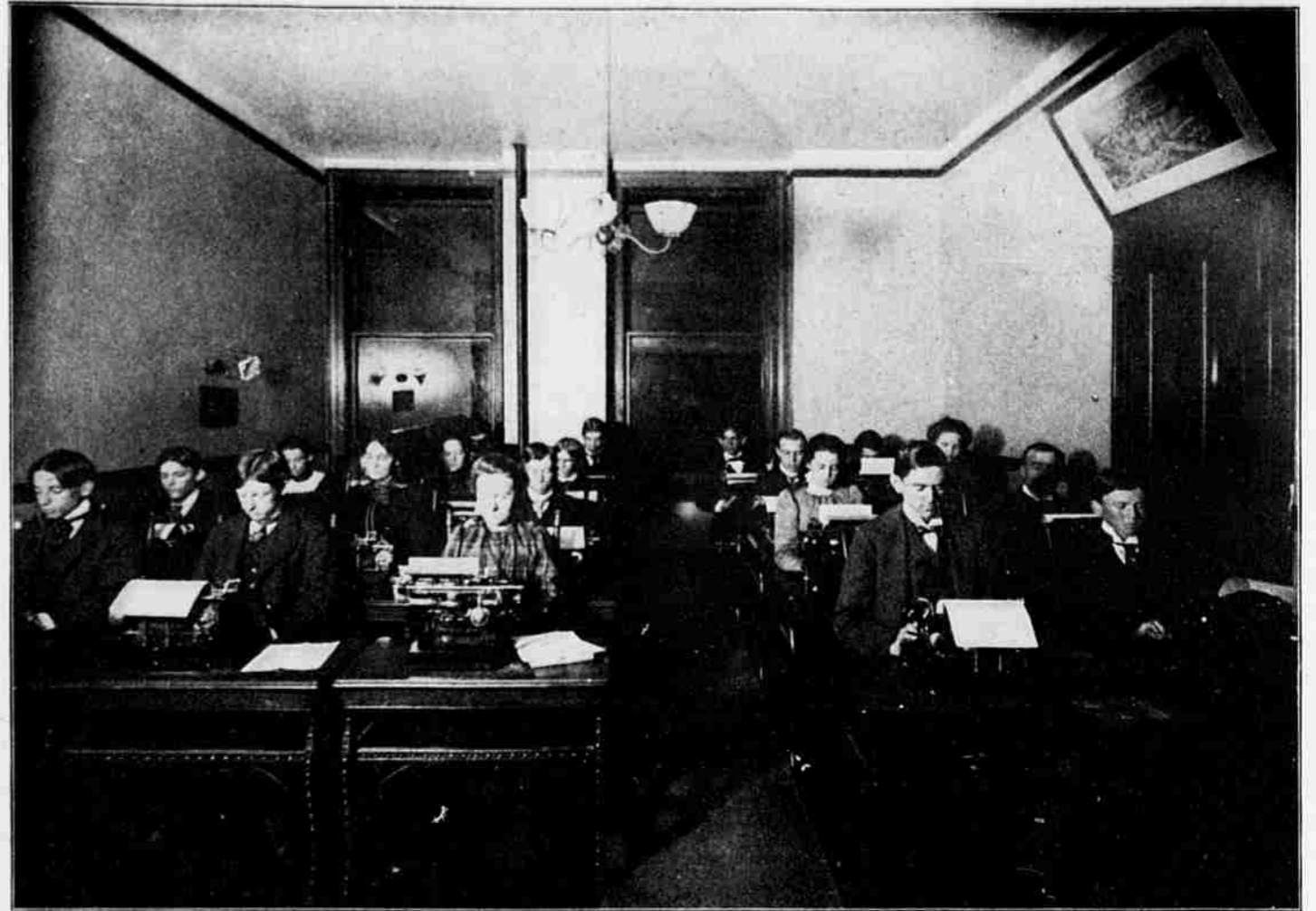
Very close attention was also given to the educational questions. Where there was any doubt as to the ability of a person to read or write, the enumerator was instructed to test him in the writing of a sentence, not containing his name, and in reading some simple paragraph. It is hoped, therefore, that the statistics as to the literacy will be absolutely accurate. The last department of the population blank was devoted to sanitary conditions and consisted of these questions:

- "Origin of the water used?"
- "What do you do with your garbage?"
- "Conditions of closets?"

If these questions are fully answered, the result will be some very startling facts about Cuban home conditions, some of which shocked the officers who tried to clean Santiago in the early days after the war.

The school statistics blank is also likely to reveal the sad conditions of Cuban education. It is simple enough, requiring the name and situation of the school. Whether public, private or religious, whether the pupils live in the building or outside, the capacity, the number of teachers, the num-

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SECTION OF TYPEWRITING DEPARTMENT OF BOYLES' COMMERCIAL AND SHORT HAND COLLEGE, BEE BUILDING.

YOUNG PEOPLE who are not already in school cannot be too strongly urged to make arrangements at once to enter some good institution. Let January 2 be the date to begin to make an earnest effort to secure a business education. Students are now being rapidly enrolled at Boyles' College for the winter term, which opens January 2nd. This is a school of private instruction and a sufficient number of teachers are employed that every student may have individual attention. Trial week is free.

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An Artist's Masterpiece



THE BALLOON. (By Julien Dupre.)

THE subject treats of a group of peasants in a harvest field. The peasants have spent the morning raking and stacking hay, the sun is at its zenith, not a breath of air is stirring, you can almost hear the bees as they buzz from flower to flower, and away off in the distance is seen a balloon majestically in the clear, blue sky. Evidently the villagers are holding their country fair, and a balloon ascension is one of the features. The group, consisting of the peasant and his family, are in the picturesque costume of the country. They have all stopped work, and stand with their rakes in their hands gazing intently at the distant balloon. Wonder, awe and admiration are blended in their expressive faces, and revealed in their attitudes. The subject has been treated with those soft, mellow tints which the artist knows so well how to paint, and recalls to the mind many just such incidents in our childhood life. It is justly popular both on account of its artistic quality and the deep human interest with which it has been clothed.

This famous work of art has been beautifully reproduced in a handsome colored photogravure. The size of the reproduction of this picture, which is probably the most famous of the paintings of Julien Dupre, is 22x30 inches. This will be sent to any address for \$1.50, or it will be sent free with any prepaid subscription to The Omaha Illustrated Bee, in combination with The Omaha Sunday Bee, both for \$2.00 per year—or to The Omaha Illustrated Bee, with The Omaha Weekly Bee, both for \$1.50 per year, by remitting 15c extra for postage and packing to THE BEE PUBLISHING CO., Omaha, Neb.



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Peculiar Woes Suffered by Authors

Detroit Journal: It is well known among cultivated people that an author is quite unable to control his characters after he has created them.

Here, for instance, is an humorous author who cannot make the cow in his pastoral peasantry look up and glare at the summer girl with the red parasol.

So there is no point in having the girl exclaim: "I know my parasol is out of style, but I didn't suppose a country cow would notice it!" That is to say, the whole joke collapses.



CHRISTMAS DINNER ON THE PLAINS IN PIONEER DAYS.

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