

# THE AMERICAN.

## SENATES IN YUCATAN.

## COUNTY COURT RULES.

JUNE TERM, 1893.

NATURAL WELLS WHICH ARE SO IMPORTANT TO THE COUNTRY.

A Visit to the Plantation of Father Pablo Anconas—The Hidden Senate—How an Indian Woman Tried to Hide Her People's Secret—Under a Sacred Tree.

Among the thousands of persons who have visited Florida some have been interested in the subterranean currents and basins of water inhabited by blind fish of the genus Silurus. They live in darkness, and the function of the visual organ, if it ever existed, has ended in its suppression. Dame Nature is a great economist, generally withholding or withdrawing what is not strictly necessary to her subjects.

As Florida stretches out, forming one jaw of the Mexican gulf, we venture to liken to a big mouth, so the southern or lower jaw is formed by another peninsula, famous for its reefs. Here, too, we find those same subterranean currents and basins, much more numerous, also enormous natural wells open to the surface of the earth. Such sources of water greatly increase the value of land, there being no rivers worth mentioning in any part of the country.

In a land where hospitality is an unwritten law, inns are regarded as unnecessary. Strangers are rare objects in the interior, and friends are ever welcome among their acquaintances. The convent doors stand open to all strangers worthy of consideration, as these buildings are now the dwelling place of only the priest and his servants. Mexico's Indian president, Benito Juarez, enacted laws in 1861 forbidding any religious body to dwell in community.

It was while enjoying the hospitality of the Rev. Father Pablo Anconas that we learned the story of a famous senote (the name given to all subterranean water sources) on his plantation, for the father was land owner and did not seem to cultivate his property. Had he not done something of the sort to replenish his ever open purse his generous hospitality must soon have come to an end, most of his parishioners being poor, and he seldom insisting on fees. Don Pablo showed us his plantation with its gardens of flowers, fruits and vegetables, in which he took pride.

He pointed out for our particular admiration some truly enormous cabbages. We preferred the oranges, which for our benefit he pulled from the richly laden trees. They were warmed through with the sun and the sweetest we have ever tasted. The greater part of the ground was monocultured by hemp plant. About 150 bales were piled up in one room, representing some \$2,000. Don Pablo took us through the engine house, and then asked if we would like to know the story of his *ojo*, which had been the making of the estate. Weenjoyed hearing tell it in his own way:

"Near the engine house stood a mound built by the ancients. From it I drew a supply of nicely hewn stones. It appeared to me that there had been rooms connected with it, and this may, I believe there must be water not far off. I declared my intention of having the whole pile of masonry removed to see what we could find. One of my Indians, a young man, became quite excited, imploring me to do nothing of the sort because the mound had spirit keepers—dwarfish creatures that were often seen. I laughed at him, vowing that if his dwarfs lived under the mound we would take a good look at them. So I had the mound destroyed, but the fellow who had tried to dissuade me would not help in the work. He said I could whip him if I liked, but as for taking part in the destruction he would not."

"This made me suspect that he knew something about the spot and that he must have learned it from his aged grandmother, with whom he lived. I went to see her, pretending to know that a hidden senote existed, simply asking her to tell me its exact whereabouts. She would say nothing. I insisted, threatening to deny her absolution when her last hour should come so she could not enter heaven. The poor old thing cried, begging for pity. Finally between threats and coaxing I wrung the truth from her.

"She said: 'My father was the only one of our family to survive a general massacre. I was his only child. All the family secrets were confided to me. This part of the land which you call yours and much more besides really belongs to me and mine. If I divulge secrets concerning it, I forfeit the right, and when we come to live here again (they believe in reincarnation) we shall not be able to obtain the land. Because you are my confessor I tell you, though you must not repeat it.'

"She stopped there, and I had to do more coaxing and talking about the next world, till at last, being very infirm, she grew tired and consented to indicate the spot on condition that three aged women should be presented to the spirit of the senote. They were to be the first to enter. I assented. She declared that the water was under a ceiba tree. Clinging to a last hope of keeping her secret, she pretended not to know just where.

"The ceiba was sacred in Central America as the tree is in Ceylon. Looking at them attentively, I found a tree more beautiful and vigorous than the others. This led me to suppose that the water was beneath it. Sure enough, when the tree was felled and removed we came upon hewn stones and mortar. In their thirst for the life giving fluid the roots had penetrated deep, twining about the stones and holding to them like a vine. We separated hewn from unhewn stones, using some of the former to build a stairway down to the water 30 feet below the surface.

"The stones in the senote and mound showed that the people had demolished their own dwelling place to fill up the cave, thus depriving their enemies of water and shelter. In the mound we found very small dwarfs indeed—diminutive clay figures that I regarded as toys, so gave them away to the children of the workmen. The poor old dame who so boldly laid claim to my estate is dead. Her hidden senote has facilitated the work here to such an extent that it is a veritable fountain of gold!"—New York Tribune.

**Notice to Creditors.**

## NOTICE TO REDEEM FROM TAX SALE.

JUNE TERM, 1893.

The call will be made consecutive to the date of sale.

All cases not answered to by attorney or parties at the call, will stand continued by agreement of parties.

In all cases which are set for trial, it is desirable to have the attorneys give a short statement in order to inform the court as to the length of time it will take to try the case.

Cases in which issues are not joined will not be set for trial, unless for special reasons it is ordered otherwise.

All cases will be set for hearing within the term, unless for special reasons it is otherwise ordered.

All cases will be set for trial in the order in which they appear on the call docket, unless the parties agree upon a time when the case is called, or for special reasons the court shall order otherwise. Default cases will be set for the morning hour.

The business each day will commence at 9:00 a.m.

The morning hour will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

The morning hour will be devoted to trials, demurrers, and default cases set for that day. (End.) To motions, demurrers, and default cases which have previously passed on its regular day and transferred on the calendar to this day.

After a case, a motion or a demurrer has passed the time for which it is set, it cannot be called up until a motion is filed and docketed by leave of the court, and such motion to the opposite party as the court may order at the time leave is given to file the motion.

Business set for a certain time, cannot be transferred to another day or hour, unless the transfer order is made at the hour the matter is set for hearing, except under Rule 19.

Each day at 9:00 a.m. the business of the hour will be called.

The matters will be heard in the order in which they are entered on the calendar unless all parties present and interested consent to a different arrangement, or in case of urgent necessity.

### TRIAL OF CASES TO-DAY.

The trial of cases will commence at 10:00 o'clock, a.m., and continue until 5:00 o'clock p.m., with a recess from 12:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Each case is entitled to be called at the time set or within ten minutes thereafter; either to be proceeded with, or a further order to be made. For this purpose no party will be required to wait longer than ten minutes for the opposite party or other business, except for urgent reasons. The trial of a case will be suspended at any time for this purpose. In case the court finds that any rule herein will work an unforeseen hardship, the court reserves the right to suspend the rule for the special case.

### Sheriff's Sale.

By virtue of an order of sale issued out of the District Court of Douglas County, Nebraska, and to me directed, I will, on the 10th day of June, 1893, at 10 o'clock a.m. of said day at the EAST front door of the county court house, in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, sell at public auction the property described in said order of sale as follows, to-wit:

Lot one, in block seven (7), and south forty (40) feet of lot two (2) in block seven (7), all in Harbach's Second addition to the city of Omaha, Douglas County, state of Nebraska, sold to me by Frank E. Rogers, in favor of Thomas Bremen and Andrew Rosewater, a transcript of which judgment was on the 19th day of September, 1892, and to satisfy the sum of one hundred, sixty-two and 28/100 dollars (\$162.28) costs, with interest thereon from the 19th day of September, A.D. 1892, together with accruing costs according to a judgment rendered by the district court of said Douglas County, at its May term, A.D. 1892, in a certain action then and there pending, wherein Thomas Bremen and Andrew Rosewater, were plaintiffs, and Frank E. Rogers and others were defendants.

GEORGE A. BENNETT,

Sheriff of Douglas County, Nebraska.

Curtis and Shields, attorneys.

7-14-5

### Sheriff's Sale.

Under and by virtue of an execution issued on the 12th day of July, 1893, by Frank E. Moore, clerk of the district court within and for Douglas County, Nebraska, upon a judgment rendered on the 7th day of June, 1893, in the cause of C. Lamb and Sons against Jerry Ryan, Dennis Cunningham and H. O'Rourke, I have levied upon the following lands and tenements as the property of the said Dennis Cunningham, to-wit: The south one-hundred-and-fifty-one and one-half acres, one hundred and sixty-seven (167) in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska; and I will on the 15th day of August, A.D. 1893, at 10 o'clock a.m. of said day at the EAST front door of the county court house in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, sell at public auction the property of the said Dennis Cunningham, to-wit: The south one-hundred-and-fifty-one and one-half acres, one hundred and sixty-seven (167) in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska; and I will on the 15th day of August, A.D. 1893, at 10 o'clock a.m. of said day at the EAST front door of the county court house in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, sell at public auction the property of the said Dennis Cunningham, to-wit: The south one-hundred-and-fifty-one and one-half acres, one hundred and sixty-seven (167) in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska; 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