

Weyler's Book Justifies Our Intervention in Cuba

WITH an unpardonable lack of tact or a greivous attempt at a sinister piece of humor, Gen. Valeriano Weyler, the former Spanish captain general of Cuba, who earned for himself the unenviable title of "butcher," has allowed the publishers to print the title of the sensational book in which he attempts to defend his conduct while the representative of the Spanish crown on that island, MI MANDO EN CUBA (My Command in Cuba) in letters of gory scarlet on a paper of livid gray.

Whatever the motive may have been that prompted such a choice, that bloody "eye catcher" of a line fully symbolizes the man and the work which caused so many years of discontent in Cuba. Weyler has been on trial before public opinion for butchering his enemies instead of fighting them; and he flaunts in our faces the ugly stains that show where he wiped off his knife.

Captain General of the most fertile province of Spain (and a province which more than once manifested her intention to throw off the Bourbon yoke), he makes such a case against the country that buys his services as no citizen of the United States could have ever made to justify America's attitude in the Cuban mix-up.

Weyler was the best hated man in Cuba when the government of his nation finally recalled him. This book will cause him to be cursed the length and breadth of the peninsula.

"I wrote it," he says, "to give all the facts about my conduct as general in chief, a conduct admired not only by army officers, high and low, who wrote me innumerable letters, but by privates, who, on their return to the peninsula, spoke of me with an enthusiastic fervor for which I can never thank them enough. Various reasons prevented me from doing years ago (when I could not have freed my mind from a certain bias) a work which I can now do in perfect peace of mind, thanks to the time that has passed, and which has soothed the irritation due to the injustice I suffered at the hands of some men.

"Furthermore I did not wish to sadden Senor Sagasta by retelling the story of our colonial disasters; neither did I feel any pleasure in censuring the illustrious Gen. Martinez Campos, my predecessor in Cuba, however uncharitably he acted toward me after his return to the capital."

A perusal of the book fails to prove that Weyler kept his promise to treat the subject with perfect moderation; the general's blood is still boiling, and with some justification, for atrocious as his conduct was in many instances, it could not very well be criticized in Spain by the Spanish government.

Had Weyler been endowed with the literary genius of a Marbot or a Las Cases, he could have made a much stronger case against Spain and presented his own actions in a much more favorable light. Unfortunately his knowledge of the writer's craft is as deficient as his fund of information touching political economy, general history, national and international politics is meager.

Weyler is not a diplomat; the slippery land of nuances and innuendos is to him terra incognita; a primitive brute, with rudimentary ethics, though unflinchingly frank and straightforward, he never ventures an assertion which cannot be supported by documents; he never pays any attention to hearsay but quotes people's letters in extenso.

A fascinating type, after all, for the observer blessed with the sense of history; just imagine what a Weyler would have developed into if he had not been born some 500 years too late; clad in steel, he had been riding a caparisoned mount, or, if he had been allowed to range over Europe during the Thirty Years' war!

General Weyler's style is very trying; even his proclamations vainly modeled after Napoleon I's oratorical gems, rarely sound the note that makes a people or an army vibrate. His relations of the Cuban campaign with all the facts, figures, names recorded in haphazard fashion day by day, is well nigh unreadable.

But the documents he publishes in support of his thesis (some of them of a confidential character and which must have been secured through "diplomatic means") make it well worth while wading through an otherwise dull, shapeless and indigestible piece of writing.

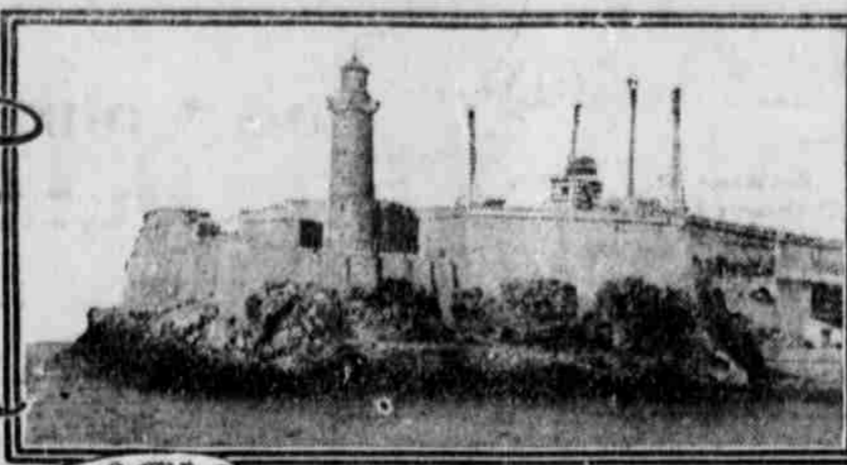
First of all we are made to realize how hopeless the plight of the Spanish commanders had become in the island when Weyler took the situation in hand; the many generals who preceded him had been losing ground from day to day; their cables to the Spanish government gave information of a pessimistic character of which the public and the press were seldom apprised; their confidential correspondence betrayed heart-rending facts, more than once poor Gen. Martinez Campos had humbly confessed himself beaten, while the cabinet led the Spanish nation to believe that the war was practically over.

Weyler himself, when placed in command of the Cuban army, was not even given what was entitled to, an honest account of the situation.

"When I landed in Cuba," he writes, "I did not even suspect the terrible conditions that prevailed in the island. I did not know anything



CAPTAIN GENERAL WEYLER



MORRO CASTLE HAVANA

gave them constant aid and kept them informed of every movement of the Spanish regiments. Says General Weyler: "Of all the measures I took the most bitterly criticized was the 'concentration,' which saved my troops from being uselessly decimated and prevented the landing of arms and munitions consigned to the enemy. I need not defend that system. Whoever has a smattering of the history of modern wars knows that it was copied by the English in the Transvaal and the Americans in the Philippines, a fact most flattering to my pride as a general.

"If individuals were sometimes summarily shot under my generalship, as it happens in the course of every war, they were put to death in obedience to the laws and regulations, never for the mere reason that they were insurgents. I pardoned those who returned to the fold, and showed much clemency to all those who came to me, however black their past may have been."

It is a matter of regret that General Weyler should not have deemed it advisable to volunteer more information as to the organization of the concentration camps. He says that one pound of meat and a quarter of a pound of rice were allowed to every individual over fourteen, and one-half that ration to children,

which seems quite sufficient under the circumstances. A few paragraphs, however, couched in his blunt, soldierly style, setting at naught the terrible charges preferred against him in connection with that stern system of warfare would have been interesting, but they were lacking. His silence amounts to a confession of guilt. He makes a weak attempt at explaining that the wives and children of insurgents were not "concentrated," but obliged to betake themselves where the head of the family was supposed to be found. This is worse yet, for one can conceive the appalling abuses which such an order emanating from the general in chief must have countenanced and justified. As the revolutionary bands were constantly moving from east to west and from west to east and could not be located with any certainty, what an existence must have been that of

families whose men were not serving in the ranks of the regular army. Refused army rations, compelled to roam from one devastated village to a burnt down hamlet, they could not but succumb to hunger and exhaustion.

Had Weyler been less brutally honest, he would have omitted such a damaging admission.

Up to this day we have had books of many kinds dealing with the Cuban war; pamphlets put forth by the insurgents and notoriously unfair to Spain; Spanish publications which misrepresented grossly the attitude of the United States; articles in European newspapers almost unanimously censuring the Americans for "robbing" Spain of her colony.

Now, however, we have the facts presented almost without any comments and certainly without embellishment by a Spaniard who loves his country and frankly detests the Americans.

Once or twice he registers a protest against the senate's decision concerning the recognition of belligerency or the campaign of defamation directed against him in American papers.

He complains that in March, 1896, when he had the situation well under control, the senate of the United States interferred most unfairly, for it recognized the belligerency of the insurgents, thereby giving them new courage.

This is less convincing than the majority of his arguments, for if we compare dates we find letters in which he admits his failure to stop the progress of the insurrection.

His gravest charge against the United States is contained in the following paragraph, which is too vague to be taken as seriously as some other statements of his:

"The United States were against everything that would bring about a termination of the war—American citizens held several millions worth of Cuban bonds, issued with the provision that the island would pass under the domination of the United States ten years after Cuba would have separated herself from Spain. The Yankees saw that with the pace I set the much-longed-for independence of Cuba and its corollary, the annexation thereof, was becoming a more and more remote possibility. But there was no reason why the peninsula should have robbed all the gossip which originated in America."

But on the whole the picture his letters and reports, as well as the letters of Martinez Campos he publishes, present to our eyes of Cuba in the years preceding the Maine incident would have justified any nation, near or remote, in intervening for the sake of humanity; a population unanimous in its desire for independence; a bloody war which could only lead to an ephemeral peace and at best would have left the island a dreary waste for years to come; the rights of foreign land owners and investors trampled under foot; all this horror had to be stopped.

Spain did not lose Cuba as a consequence of the war with the United States; by the very admission of Spain's military representatives in that ill-fated colony, Cuba was irrevocably lost to Spain in 1897, and the few Spaniards residing in the coast towns, the only safe abode for them, felt themselves a despised, ostracized minority.

The only way to subdue such bloodthirsty, desperate pirates was to adopt their own tactics. The insurgents, of their own admission, never gave nor accepted battle, but harassed the regulars and destroyed their sources of supply. "Concentration" seemed to be the only solution of the problem, for the wives and children of the insurgents

besides what the minister of war had told me and what I had read in the papers or in anonymous letters sent by Spaniards living in Cuba, and I thought that all of them exaggerated the facts; I had no knowledge of the secret documents I have appended to this book. How gloomy the outlook was is set forth graphically in a confidential letter from Gen. Martinez Campos to Canovas del Castillo, prime minister of Spain.

Although from the very first I realized the gravity of the situation, I refused to believe it; my visits in Cuba, Principe and Holguin appalled me; however, in order not to appear pessimistic, I did not express all my thoughts, and I decided to visit not only the maritime communities, but the towns in the interior. The few Spaniards who live in the island do not dare to mention their origin except in the cities. The rest of the population hates Spain. Wherever you pass a farm and ask the women where their husbands are, they answer with terrifying frankness: 'In the mountains with Chief So and So.'

"You could not get anyone to carry a message for 500 nor 1,000 pesetas; he would be hanged if he were ever caught.

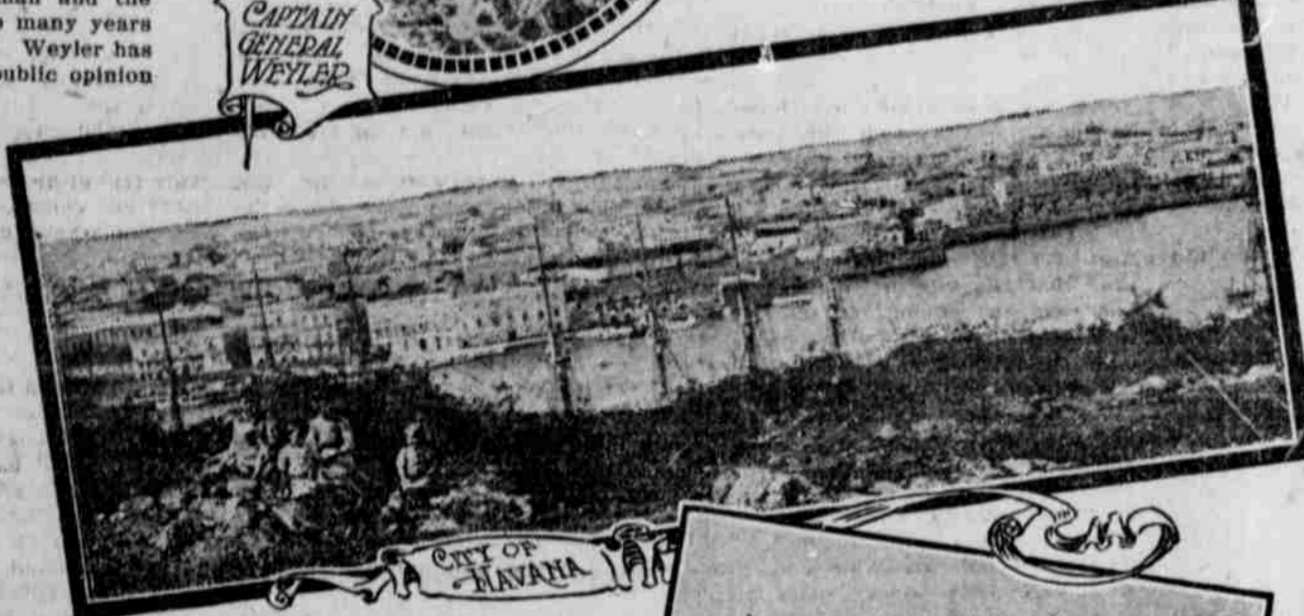
The rebels who charged Weyler with wanton cruelty seldom restrained themselves from accomplishing deeds of violence likely to terrorize the few remaining supporters of the Spanish rule. To quote Weyler:

"The insurgents did not return in any way the considerate treatment accorded to them by this generous commander (Martinez Campos). At the beginning of the war Maximino Gomez showed himself very fair; but Maceo, as I shall prove by authentic documents, ordered his bands to set fire to all the sugar mills whose owners were not paying war tribute, to plunder and loot the country, to shoot mercilessly all the messengers, men caught repairing railroad lines or bringing provisions into the villages. Worse yet: The insurgent chiefs did not hesitate to kill with their own weapons defenseless islanders, and Maximino Gomez in his 'Memoires' confesses to having shot personally a man he had sentenced to death, a deed which I call willful murder. And still that individual presumes to call me 'assassin.'"

As his authority for the foregoing statement General Weyler not only quotes extracts from the Cuban papers, but appends a proclamation of Maceo, Gomez's lieutenant, to his bands.

"Comrades in Arms: Destroy, destroy everything, day and night; to blow up bridges, to derail trains, to burn up villages and sugar mills, to annihilate Cuba is the only way to defeat our enemies. We have not to account for our conduct to anyone. Diplomacy, public opinion and history don't matter. It would be sheer insanity to seek the laurels of the battlefield, to bear the fire of the enemy's artillery and contribute to the glory of the Spanish commanders. The essential thing is to convince Spain that Cuba will be but a heap of ruins. What compensation will she receive then for the sacrifice entailed by the campaign? We must burn and raze everything. It would be folly to fight as though we were an European army. Where rifles are of no avail let dynamite do the work.

A. MACEO."



THE PALACE HAVANA

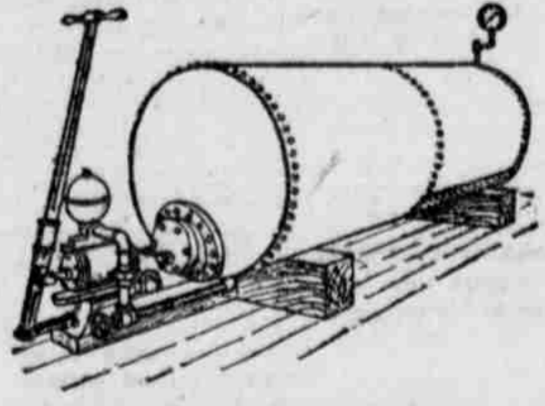


THE PALACE HAVANA

WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM CONVENIENT TO FARMERS

Makes Farm Life Attractive and Lessens Danger From Fire—Can Very Readily Be Used for Carrying Water to Dairy and Barns.

Can farmers have running water, hot or cold, in their dwelling houses? Most certainly. What will the cost be? Fifty dollars and up, depending upon the size of the house and the kind of equipment needed. This makes possible the bath and toilet room, protection from fire, the easy washing of windows and walks, the sprinkling of lawns, the irrigating of gardens, and all the other conveniences which a few years ago were thought possible only in cities, where big water sys-



Hand Pump and Pressure Tank.

tems were available, writes Clarence A. Shamel in Orange Judd Farmer. This is one of the things that makes farm life attractive. It lessens the work in the house, insures a fine lawn and garden, reduces danger from fire, adds greatly to comfort and convenience in every direction.

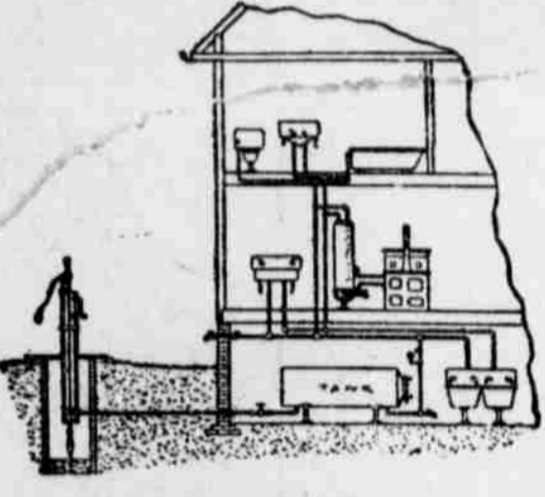
The way to secure this is to install a water supply system, with a pressure tank in the basement. This pressure tank is so arranged that by pumping it full under strong air pressure the water is forced all over the house, and is available for the bathroom, toilet room and the garden or fire hose. The water is distributed about the house exactly as it is in city homes, by means of galvanized iron pipes. Where a small building is to be supplied and the amount of water to be used is not large, the system can be installed for \$50. For the average house \$90 is a better figure. Where the house is large, and where considerable amounts of water are needed for the lawn and garden, and possibly also for washing carriages, automobiles and horses, a larger system should be installed, costing up to \$150. The cost of the system, therefore, depends upon the wishes of the owner and the demands that will be made upon it.

Its installation is easy, and its operation is exceedingly simple. Any pipe fitter or plumber can put in the plant so that it will work perfectly. All that is needed for operating is to keep the tank pressure up to the de-

good one and the supply of water large.

I have a system of this kind in my country home. It was installed four years ago and cost \$75. Previous to that time nothing of the kind had been used in my neighborhood. We take care of the waste water and sewage by running a large tile from the bathroom, one-quarter of a mile distant, to a large cistern, located in the center of a big field. This is disinfected about twice a year, and is easily handled. I have never had any trouble with the water pipes, even during the coldest weather. Neither have I had any difficulty with the waste system. In fact, the water supply is practically perfect, and I don't see how any farmer who can get together \$75 or \$100 can afford to be without it.

The illustrations indicate the arrangement of a water supply system, as can be readily seen is very simple. The system can also be used for supplying water to stock tanks, and these may be located anywhere on the farm. The pressure developed in the tank is sufficient to force the water anywhere wanted. This use will, of course, depend entirely upon the wishes of the owner, and is simply a matter of cost of pipes. It can very readily be used for delivering water to dairy or other stock barns, where it can be run into water troughs in the stalls, or elsewhere, as desired. On the whole, the farm water supply system is one of the most satisfac-



Domestic Water Works System.

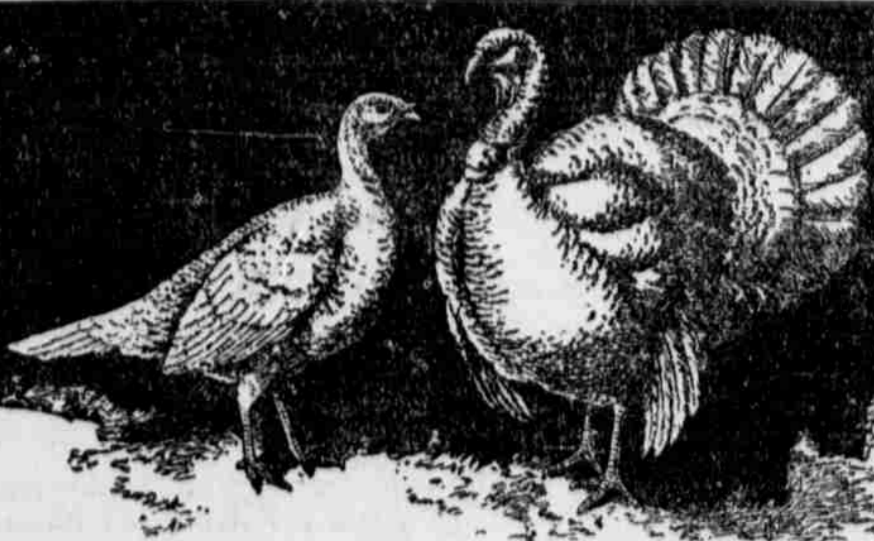
stated point. This may be 20, 40, 60 or 100 pounds. A few strokes of the pump, if the work is done by hand, is sufficient. If a lot of water is used, of course the amount of pumping will increase. By being economical in the use of water, that is to say, by wasting none, this matter of pumping is not at all a serious problem.

The most satisfactory method of pumping, however, is to use a wind-

tory that has ever been invented, and should be looked up by everyone who is desirous to secure comfort and convenience.

Care of Milk. Carry the milk out of the stable as soon as you get it from the cow. Milk is awfully grasping. It will take every smell within its reach. Don't give it a chance.

DELICATE BREED OF TURKEYS



It is well known to experienced breeders and nature students that black-plumaged birds will once in a while have white offspring; this explains the origin of what in this country is known as the White Holland turkey. So keen an observer as Tegetmeyer is on record as saying that "It is well known that most birds, wild as well as tame, occasionally produce perfectly white individuals of more deli-

cate constitution than the parents. There can be no doubt that the selection and pairing of such is the way in which the breed of white turkeys has been established and kept up." J. A. Leland, a noted Illinois breeder of white turkeys, says: "As to color, I have never seen White Holland turkeys that did not show some black ticking in plumage during some period of their lives."