

CAN'T CATCH GOMEZ

The Reported Dying Consumptive General is Too Much for the Spaniards.

Spanish Soldiers as Bad as Kurds—Maceo and Gomez Have Met at Last.

New York, Feb. 4.—A dispatch to the World from Havana says:

Maímo Gomez, accompanied by 400 mounted men, succeeded on Thursday in recrossing the Trocha, or military line, established by the Spaniards, between Havana and Barahona. He crossed a few miles south of Bejucana, near Escambray, which is about ten miles north of Quivira, the same time he destroyed a small culvert, tore up the railroad tracks, cut the telegraph wires and crippled the section of railroad between Rincon and Quivira. Few wonder how Gomez evaded the Spanish columns, and how it was possible for him to practically cut through the wall of men of which the Spanish generals expect so much. At the very time Gomez played this trick on the Spaniards, the active governor-general of Cuba, who had left Havana the same day at the head of the best equipped force put in the field during the present rebellion, was slumbering quietly surrounded by his troops, at San Antonio de los Baños, about ten miles east of Guanajay. While Gomez was coming east and approaching the Trocha, General Martin and his troops were going west on a train from Rincon toward Guanajay. The railroad used by Martin and not more than from six to ten miles distant at any time. Yet they did not learn until the following morning (Friday) that Gomez was in the east again. The information received here was by telegram from Quivira.

An exceedingly large number of people have been leaving Cuba in the past fortnight, and it seems as if the exodus has only just begun. Every steamer leaving Havana carries hundreds of families, not only to the United States but to Mexico, South America and West Indian ports. Steamship agents talk of putting on extra steamers to carry the passengers away. Business is practically at a standstill. Some suggest that the Spaniards are grinding. All that are grinding are doing so under strong military guard, and are compelled to feed the troops, and the profits are small. One of two plantations, it is said, obtained permission from Gomez to start their machinery. At Constantia 400 regulars and 600 civic guards are encamped on and about the plantation to protect the men at work. Small stone fortresses have been built at equal distances around the plantations, all being connected by telephone.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 4.—Some time ago, when the insurgents entered Sabana, the Spanish official report stated that they were driven out by the guerrillas, and that "unfortunately" three women were killed by stray bullets. The truth of what happened there has just been learned, and it shows the Spaniards are acting as barbarians in Cuba as the Kurds in Armenia. Sabana, which is an important town in Matanzas province, was entered by 400 insurgents under Garcia. The Spanish regulars retreated to the barracks and made no resistance. The Spanish volunteers, however, retreated to the church and fired on the insurgents. The latter returned the fire, killing five volunteers. The volunteers then ceased firing. The inhabitants received the insurgents cheerfully, and many poor people who had been starving, but were fed by Garcia, who made the merchants open their stores and told the people to take food. Thirty stores were shot for resisting. The insurgents then retired. As soon as they were gone the Spanish volunteers came out of the barracks and opened fire on the people in the streets. Forty-six were killed, of whom thirty were women and children. Their only offense was cheering the insurgents and taking food to save themselves from starvation. After shooting these people the volunteers took ten Cubans who had surrendered on promise of amnesty, and shot them in cold blood. Two thousand men, women and children have reached Matanzas from Sabana. They fled, fearing further massacres by Spanish volunteers. These facts are vouched for by Mayor Juan Calvez of Sabana, who is in Havana to ask General Martin to punish the volunteers.

(By mail from Havana).—Gomez and Maceo have met. The meeting, it is said, took place at a plantation near Artemisa, in the province of Pinar del Rio, at the very time that Acting Governor Martin, with five columns was looking for either the rebel chiefs, only fourteen miles to the northward, near San Antonio de los Baños. It was supposed that the guarded railroad line from Havana to Estrecho would prevent the meeting, but Gomez crossed the line, and Maceo, with a comparatively small part of his forces, made a quick march from the westernmost point of the island, and kept his trail. The next campaign of the insurgents must have been decided upon by this time. "I have seen Morros light every night for a week," said Gomez recently.

Tampa, Fla., Feb. 4.—Two hundred refugees arrived from Cuba last night. They say that no passports will be issued to Spanish subjects after General Weyler arrives. Maceo has broken through the Spanish cordon and is in Havana province eluding Gen. Martin in Vuelta Abajo.

Key West, Fla., Feb. 4.—General Gomez has engaged the Spanish army under General Martin near Quivira, in Havana province. The battle, which lasted for several hours, was stubbornly contested. The insurgents eventually withdrew to escape an ambush; but as the official report does not contain any Spanish losses, the insurgents claim it as accepted as correct. This is to the effect that Martin lost 200 men 500 rifles, and a considerable quantity of ammunition. Gomez, the report says, handled his forces with rare skill and escaped with a loss of less than a dozen men.

Norfolk, Va., Feb. 4.—Despite the pre-

cautions of the Spanish government agents, and notwithstanding the presence of a quartette of United States vessels in Hampton Roads, it develops that last night the steamer Venus slipped out of port with no present destination. The Venus was sold last week by Deputy United States Marshal Cross under libel for wages due. The purchaser, a well dressed stranger, says he bought the boat for a New York market firm to be used in the fish trade. One night she lay at the big freight dock and a few hours before was coaled and steamed up. An unusually large number of men were seen to board her. No clearance papers have been recorded for the vessel, yet incoming ships report passing a boat of her description outward bound near the Cape.

Havana, Feb. 4.—An insurgent force, under the leadership of Gomez, has attacked a detachment of Spanish troops at San Quentin. The soldiers were engaged repairing the railroad between Esperanza and Jicotea, province of Sancti Spiritus. They made a gallant defence, but lost Lieut. Borges, one sergeant and thirteen soldiers killed and five wounded.

COMMUNICATIONS

ABOUT A ROAD.

W. T. Smith, Esq., Boundary Falls, B. C. Sir,—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st inst. in relation to the road built by you into Greenwood Camp, and to say that no further payment will be made.

When I was last at Midway I gave you the option of leaving it alone, and I would build it myself and give you \$500.00 for the road from the Greenwood and Summit trail. You have received the \$500.00 as agreed to, and your claim for more is precluded.

In this matter you have acted unfair and untruthful and I will consider you a bad servant.

LEONARD NORRIS, Government Agent.

To the Editor: The above letter was received by me in response to one I had written Mr. Norris in which I requested him to settle up the affairs of the wagon road built into Greenwood Camp last October. The tone of the letter was such as to lead me to believe that I had built the road upon my own responsibility, while the true facts are that the construction of the road was undertaken and carried through by the B. C. government, and when completed was inspected and accepted by their road supervisor for this district.

If Mr. Norris intends to convey the statement that I agreed to build the road for \$450.00, he is entirely at fault, as there was no such understanding between us, and my connection with the road was solely at his own request, as he asked me as a favor to himself to take charge of the work, as I had tools and men already on the ground; to which I agreed and there my responsibility ended.

Before Mr. Norris appeared on the ground at all, a number of miners and settlers got together and began to build a rough sleigh road from Greenwood Camp to the main wagon road over Boundary mountain. Shortly after this work was begun, Mr. Norris came to Greenwood and in conversation with Mr. Denzler and Mr. Rumberger, asked them what it would cost to build the road projected. As they had been over the ground and were acquainted with the country the road was laid through the woods in a position to know the approximate cost. They told him that a passable sleigh road could be built for \$450. It was after this that Mr. Norris met me at Midway, and as mentioned before, asked me to take over the work, and at the same time telling me that \$450 would be available then, and the balance (if more was needed) shortly afterwards. I was absent on mining business most of the time the road was under construction, and my return to camp found that good substantial wagon road, passable at all times of the year, had been built, the cost of which (as per statement sent to Mr. Norris) was something over \$850—\$450 was all paid at the time, and there was a balance remaining unpaid of over \$400. This money is due to miners, settlers and others doing business here, many of whom need the money. I have already expended over \$100 out of my own pocket on this road, besides giving the use of all necessary tools, etc.

Now Mr. Norris refuses to pay for a road which was built by him, and tries to shift the responsibility onto me. This is certainly a pretty state of affairs. While talking to the men who began to build the road Mr. Norris gave them to understand that he was building the road, and intended to pay for it, and that he did not need their assistance, and he furthermore asked the men which road they thought most desirable—toward the Wellington Camp or toward the Boundary side of the summit.

As regards the trail mentioned in Mr. Norris' letter, I have to say that it was built from the Greenwood camp to the Summit camp, a distance of five miles, through a roughly timbered country, requiring considerable grading, and the actual cost of building was \$150. This trail was accepted by the government. It was a very necessary trail and was used exclusively by miners and prospectors since it was built. The idea of Mr. Norris offering me \$50 for this trail is ridiculous. Has the government gone into liquidation, that they offer me 33 cents on the dollar for work that is of the greatest necessity in opening up and developing the country?

I have already expended over \$30,000 in this district in the prosecution of mining work, and I certainly don't consider it right or just of the government to compel me to pay for public wagon roads or trails, and moreover, I don't propose to do so.

I quote from a statement of Mr. Geo. Rumberger concerning an interview between Mr. Norris and himself: "Norris offered to settle with me for the trail I took him to V. T. Smith had partly paid me, and I would settle with Smith for the balance, and that there were other claims against the trail, and I told Mr. Norris he could settle in full with Smith. Norris wanted to know about what the wagon road would cost. I told him about 150 days' work, besides team work, which would make a sleigh road for this winter and could be improved to make a good wagon road next year."

W. T. SMITH, Superintendent of Stewardville mine

for the Parrott Smelting Company, Vice-President of the Northwest Mining Association for Boundary District, B. C.

ANOTHER KICK FROM A "HAY SEED."

To the Editor:—I am very much pleased to see that some of our readers have promptly and energetically protested against the gratuitous action of the small body (small both numerically and mentally) of self-constituted "Game Protection Association," as reported in your and other provincial papers. That a very limited number of city residents should attempt to annually control the legislation in regard to game, and try to enforce their limited ideas upon the many thousands of hard-working and hard-handed settlers throughout the province, is in my humble opinion, the height of cheek. In my small experience of our city sportsmen (with a few honorable exceptions) they are the worst of law breakers, when they do us the honor to trespass upon our private lands, break down our fences, shoot our game, our stock and our farmyard fowls. What do the majority of these individuals know of the life history, or habits, or appearance of the many varieties of the feathered or furred game? Can they distinguish (in the heavy undergrowth of sal-bush thickets) between a yearly steer and a yearling buck? For such noble sportsmen to presume to "petition and recommend, and humbly pray" that "the house in their wisdom assembled, should tinker with the laws annually, to suit their fancies from their office of a yearling tailors." "We, the people of England, here assembled." The G. P. A. hereby request that a gun license should be enforced, even with all the inconveniences to place and on private property," also be allowed. Rot of the worst description! As well demand a license from a rancher for owning a chopping axe; the one is as essential as the other. If I am to be licensed to shoot a deer, I am to protect myself from the many marauders that lay in wait for my poultry? Must I spend the day heaving rocks at the hawks and crows; and must I sit up all night to "shoot" off the coons; and for my orchard and early marrows will moral suasion keep away the deer and bluejays?

And the right of search. I am afraid that the position of game constable in many cases is not an enviable one, even with all the inconveniences to place and on private property," also be allowed. Rot of the worst description! As well demand a license from a rancher for owning a chopping axe; the one is as essential as the other. If I am to be licensed to shoot a deer, I am to protect myself from the many marauders that lay in wait for my poultry? Must I spend the day heaving rocks at the hawks and crows; and must I sit up all night to "shoot" off the coons; and for my orchard and early marrows will moral suasion keep away the deer and bluejays?

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W. T. SMITH, Superintendent of Stewardville mine

My friend, look here you know how weak and foolish I am, and you know that Carter's Iron Pills will relieve me, but why not be fair about it and buy her a box?

In Saxony no one is permitted to stee horses unless he has passed a public examination, and is fully qualified. A great school at Dresden, where students from all parts of the world studying "farriery." This includes not only shoeing horses, but their care and treatment, a provision that saves a great deal of money for farmers and others owning horses.

science

Science is "knowing how." The only secret about Scott's Emulsion is years of science. When made in large quantities and by improving methods, an emulsion must be more perfect than when made in the old-time way with mortar and pestle a few ounces at a time. This is why Scott's Emulsion of cod-liver oil never separates, keeps sweet for years, and why every spoonful is equal to every other spoonful. An even product throughout.

W. T. SMITH, Superintendent of Stewardville mine

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM

Members of the City Boards Discuss Several Amendments to the Act.

The Text Books Now in Use in the Public Schools are Severely Criticized.

The conference of city boards of school trustees was held in the city hall last evening. There were present the members of the Victoria board, W. Templeton, chairman, and Dr. Brydson-Jack, representing the Vancouver board, and Dr. Boggs, chairman, and John McKenzie, representing the New Westminster board. Mr. Hayward was appointed chairman of the meeting. Secretary Williams read a communication from S. Gough, secretary of the Nanaimo board, in which it was stated that the Nanaimo board heartily concurred in the amendments proposed and would have sent a representative to the conference had earlier notice been sent the board.

The meeting at once dealt with the amendments proposed by the Victoria and Vancouver boards. Several of them evoked considerable discussion. Dr. Brydson-Jack was in favor of abolishing examinations of the pupils of each term. The promotion examinations, oral or written, were a great strain on the pupils, and it was unfair to have immediately after these a public exhibition in which the pupils take a prominent part. The reading of the proposition first by each board, as well as postponed till the beginning of the term. Heretofore the opening day of each term was marked by a small attendance, and the distribution of promotion certificates will be an incentive for pupils to attend the first day.

Trustee Templeton stated that the Vancouver board considered that the hours for junior classes were too long, especially in warm weather, and the school boards should have the power to regulate the hours so that the teachers could dismiss when pupils showed signs of fatigue. It was no expedient that the city boards should have the power of extending the midsummer holidays, as for several years the weather has been so extremely warm at the time for opening the schools. The Vancouver board was in favor of the proposition to appoint one of their number to act as secretary.

Trustee Yates, while agreeing in the main with the remarks of Trustee Templeton, thought the clause regarding the dismissal of junior classes would be open to abuse, as no doubt some teachers would be tempted in noticing signs of fatigue among the pupils, (Laughter.) He agreed to the introduction of German and Spanish as subjects to be taught in the High School, also that the board might have the power to appoint one of their number secretary, with a salary.

Dr. Boggs pointed out that owing to the hot weather prevailing the attendance at the opening of the midsummer term was always small. It is a more in the schools until the first of August is over. The weather of the first weeks of July was never so warm as the first weeks of August, and if necessary the change might be brought about by playing the closing of the schools till the first of August.

Trustee Belyea thought it a mistake to add any more subjects to the High School curriculum, as it was a well-founded complaint that too much is attempted in the schools now, and such a curriculum might be construed by the education department as an endorsement of the length of the curriculum as at present constituted. He believed the trustees should ask that some subjects be dropped rather than that more should be added.

Dr. Brydson-Jack explained that all the Vancouver board desired was that candidates for teachers' examinations might be allowed to substitute German and Spanish for two languages out of Latin, Greek and French, already authorized by the department.

Trustee McKenzie also feared that the adding of more subjects to the High School curriculum would create a bad impression. Trustee Templeton stated that the objection of the Vancouver board had in view was to arrange the curriculum so that those pupils who are taking German or Spanish might be able to utilize the same at teachers' examinations.

Trustee Templeton explained why the Vancouver board wanted the Ontario rules governing the engagement of teachers adopted by the city boards. It was often inconvenient for a board to dismiss a teacher when it was in the interest of the school to do so, but if a teacher was not wanted by the board, his engagement would end at the end of the year and the board could re-engage him or quietly drop him out.

Dr. Boggs also wished a change made in this direction, as trustees often found it difficult to dismiss a teacher even when there was just cause for doing so. Trustee Belyea wished to raise the status of a teacher above that of a common servant by having a yearly engagement such as is in vogue in the eastern provinces, where three months' notice had to be given by the trustees or the teacher to terminate the contract. Here the teacher was not secure in his position for a longer time than a month, and was simply engaged and dismissed at the discretion of the board. He thought the suggestion of the Vancouver board was too indefinite.

On motion of Trustee Belyea, seconded by Dr. Brydson-Jack, amendment 9 was substituted in place of that suggested by the Vancouver board.

Trustee McKicking brought up the matter of the number of text books authorized by the education department. Ontario had grappled with this subject and there only one text book was authorized for each subject. Something ought to be done, as the continual changing of text books was a great expense to the parents of the pupils.

Trustee Belyea criticized the use made of the present authorized series. The Gage's readers were condemned as being much inferior to many other series.

SAFETY FOR OUR GIRLS.

Paine's Celery Compound Makes New and Pure Blood, Gives Strong Nerves and Builds Up the Body.

Medical men everywhere admit that Paine's Celery Compound is the best medicine for pale, weak and sickly girls. It builds up wasted tissues, makes pure blood, and produces strong nerves, enabling girls to reach health and strong womanhood.

Mrs. Boulanger, of St. Henri, Montreal, saved her daughter's life by having her use Paine's Celery Compound at a most critical time. The young lady is now one of the healthiest, brightest and most attractive girls of the town. Her mother writes thus about the wonderful cure:

"My daughter, aged 17 years, has been a long time in a weak state of health, so much so, that she was unable to do any work about the house, and often was unable to comb her hair; this has been the case for some years, and I feared she would never be strong."

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"The little daughter of Mr. F. J. Webber, Holland, Mass., had a bad cold and cough which he had been able to cure with anything. I gave him a 75-cent bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, says W. P. Holder, merchant and postmaster at Westfield, and the next time I saw him he said it worked like a charm. This remedy is intended especially for acute throat and lung diseases, such as colds, croup and whooping cough, and it is famous for its cures. There is no danger in giving it to children for it contains nothing injurious. For sale by all druggists. Langley & Co., wholesale agents, Victoria and Vancouver."

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"The old Indians of the reserve in the vicinity of the city were given a treat at the Methodist Mission, Herald street, yesterday. Before leaving they were supplied with parcels of provisions and clothes."

Below are the amendments passed by the board and which were this morning presented to the minister of education:

1. That the written and entrance to high school examinations of pupils take place during the last days of each term, and as far as possible simultaneously in each school and class. Such examination to finish on the last day of each term.

2. That the examinations held heretofore at the close of the term be abolished in all city schools.

3. That immediately after the close of the term the teacher shall under the direction of the principal, examine, mark and report upon all examination papers. The principal shall as soon as possible forward the completed lists to the secretary of the board.

4. That the first day of each term shall after routine work be devoted to the presentation of reports of the teachers, to parents and friends are invited.

5. That the school board be empowered to regulate teaching hours of classes in the tablet and first primer divisions.

6. That city school boards have the power of extending the midsummer term, when they consider the same necessary to any Monday not later than the first Monday in September.

7. That German and Spanish be included in the subjects which may be taught in the high schools, and that candidates for examination be allowed to substitute any two of the following languages, Latin, Greek, French, German and Spanish.

8. That Sec. 29 of the School Act be amended by adding after the word "secretary" in the first line, the words "who may be of their number," and that Sec. 29 be amended by adding to the same Sec. the words "except as provided in Sec. 29."

9. That city boards be empowered to make rules governing the engagement of teachers and the termination of contracts with teachers.

10. Whereas it is expedient for the best interests of advanced education that the high schools of the province may become affiliated with other of the Eastern universities; and whereas some of the universities require that schools to be affiliated with them must be managed by an incorporated board of governors; be it therefore enacted as follows:—That the Vancouver board desired that all candidates for teachers' examinations might be allowed to substitute German and Spanish for two languages out of Latin, Greek and French, already authorized by the department.

Trustee McKenzie also feared that the adding of more subjects to the High School curriculum would create a bad impression. Trustee Templeton stated that the objection of the Vancouver board had in view was to arrange the curriculum so that those pupils who are taking German or Spanish might be able to utilize the same at teachers' examinations.

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Dr. Boggs also wished a change made in this direction, as trustees often found it difficult to dismiss a teacher even when there was just cause for doing so. Trustee Belyea wished to raise the status of a teacher above that of a common servant by having a yearly engagement such as is in vogue in the eastern provinces, where three months' notice had to be given by the trustees or the teacher to terminate the contract. Here the teacher was not secure in his position for a longer time than a month, and was simply engaged and dismissed at the discretion of the board. He thought the suggestion of the Vancouver board was too indefinite.

On motion of Trustee Belyea, seconded by Dr. Brydson-Jack, amendment 9 was substituted in place of that suggested by the Vancouver board.

Trustee McKicking brought up the matter of the number of text books authorized by the education department. Ontario had grappled with this subject and there only one text book was authorized for each subject. Something ought to be done, as the continual changing of text books was a great expense to the parents of the pupils.

Trustee Belyea criticized the use made of the present authorized series. The Gage's readers were condemned as being much inferior to many other series.

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