SWEPT ALL BEFORE HIM

The Minister of War in Venevuela Simply Demolished all Before Him.

AROJO GREAT FIGHTER GOOD STORY-TELLER

The Eyes of all Venezuela Fastened on the Invalid Castro

Caracas, Jan. 16.—Minister of War Arojo returned from the Colombian frontier, whither he went to do battle with General Mantilla, the revolutionary guerila, officially reports that upon his approach the brigand fled. Mantilla's previous record of four battles and four victories against government troops has started a rumor that Arojo's bloodless victory was obtained by collusion with the guerila chieftain. In the anti-Castro circles Arojo is credited with being a supporter of Vice-President Gomez for the presidency.

The all important subject here is the health of President Castro. Since he became ill, over six months ago, his condition has been jealously guarded. For political reasons all official information concerning his condition has been optimistic. For the same reason reports from antagonistic quarters have been pessimistic. The Associated Press correspondent learns that he is suffering from gastric fever, as his physician, Dr. Revenga, states, it is merely a contributory ailment. His real malady is more serious, requires long and careful attention, sometimes results fatally, and seldom fails to leave its victim weakened in some way.

Castro is reported better by a source of information apparently unprejudiced.

The country suffers from the lack of an active head. Public building has ceased. Dr. Ravenga, secretary general to the president, exercises every power of government, and even the sale of stamps has been farmed out. Every necessity of life has been monopolized. The cost of living in Caracas is little less than in New York. There is sufficient popular discontent for a dozen revolutions, but no leader strong enough to bring about concerted action.

It is reported here that President Roosevelt will send to congress a special message dealing with Venezuelan affairs. It is hoped by commercial interests that if such a message is delivered it must bring about a change for the better in the economic condition of the country. A merchant recently in conversation with the Associated Press stated emphatically that 80 per cent. of the business men of Venezuela would welcome American intervention in almost any form. They view with envy the prosperity of Cuba, Porto Rico and Panama.

THE FIRE THAT RAGED IN ALIX

Considerable Damage Caused by the Conflagration

Alix, Jan. 13.—A fire which did considerable damage to the little town of Alix broke out on Saturday night between 9.30 and 10 o'clock. It occurred in the drug store which formed part of the premises of Dr. A. Wilson and seemingly arose from overheating by the furnace. Before any attempt at salvage could be made the building was in flames and the windows fell in at once. One or two people strove to enter by the back, but were driven out by the smoke. The general store of D. G. Campbell was adjoining, there being practically no space between them, and it was not above 15 minutes before that too caught. Possibly some personal effects might have been saved had not Mr. Campbell been in bed at the time, but the ordinary contents of the store were of such an inflammable nature that as soon as the fire got a hold the building was doomed. It turned like matchwood. The post office adjoined the store, and with great promptitude and self sacrifice Mr. Campbell and his assistant burst into it and succeeded in saving the mail and postal books, etc.

The buildings destroyed formed a block by themselves in the main street of Alix and so the army of workers were enabled to prevent the fire spreading to neighboring stores and stables, though powerless to prevent the entire destruction of the block, which is now a bare, black, smoking patch.

Dr. Wilson's store and premises were quite recently built and practically uninsured. There was no fire engine or fire fighting implements available, though it is doubtful if they could have saved anything.

Seeing the fire that occurred within the last few months at Lacombe, the recent fire at the Imperial hotel in Alix, the conflagration at Stettler and this last serious loss by the same means, this district has paid very heavy toll during the early part of the winter to the most ruthless of all destroying elements.

SYNOPSIS OF CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

Homestead Regulations.

Any even number section of Dominion Lands in Manitoba or the North-West Provinces, exception 8 and 26, not reserved, may be homesteaded by any person the sole head of a family, or male over 18 years of age, to the extent of one-quarter section of 160 acres, more or less.

Application for homestead entry or inspection must be made in person by the applicant at the office of the local Agent or Sub-agent.

An application for entry or inspection made personally at any Sub-agent's office may be wired to the local Agent, by the Sub-agent, the expense of the applicant, and if the land applied for is vacant on receipt of the telegram such application is to have priority and the land will be held until the necessary papers to complete the transaction are received by mail.

In case of "perswation" the entry will be summarily cancelled and the applicant will forfeit all priority of claim.

An applicant for inspection must be eligible for homestead entry, and only one applicant for inspection will be received from an individual until that application has been disposed of.

A homesteader whose entry is in good standing and not liable to cancellation, may subject to approval of Department, relinquish it in favor of father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister, if eligible, but to one case only, in filing declaration of abandonment.

Where an entry is summarily cancelled, or voluntarily abandoned, subsequent to institution of cancellation proceedings, the applicant for inspection will be entitled to prior right of entry.

Duties—A settler is required to perform the conditions under one of the following plans:

(1) At least six months' residence upon and cultivation of the land in each year during the term of three years.

(2) If the father (or mother, if the father is deceased) of a homesteader resides upon a farm in the vicinity of the land entered for by such homesteader the requirement as to residence may be satisfied by such person residing with the father or mother.

(3) If the settler has his residence upon farming, and owned by him in the vicinity of his homestead, the requirement may be satisfied by residence upon such land.

Before making application for patent the settler must give six months' notice in writing to the Commissioner of Dominion Lands at Ottawa, of his intention to do so.

Synopsis of Canadian North-West Mining Regulations.

Coal.—Coal lands may be purchased at $10 per acre for soft coal and $20 for anthracite. Not more than 320 acres can be acquired by one individual or company. Royalty at the rate of ten cents per ton of 2,000 pounds shall be collected on the gross output.

Quartz.—A free miner's certificate is granted upon payment in advance of $5 per annum for an individual, and from $50 to $100 per annum for a company according to capital.

A free miner, having discovered mineral in place, may locate a claim 1,500x1,500 feet.

The fee for recording a claim is $5. At least $100 must be expended on the claim each year or paid to the mining recorder in lieu thereof. When $500 has been expended or paid, the locator may, upon having a survey made and upon complying with other requirements, purchase the land at $1 per acre.

The patent provides for the payment of a royalty of 2½ per cent. on the sales.

PLACER mining claims generally are 100 feet square; entry fee $5, renewable yearly.

A free miner may obtain two leases to dredge for gold of five miles each for a term of twenty years renewable at the discretion of the Minister of the Interior.

The lessee shall have a dredge in operation within one season from the date of the lease for each five miles. Rental, $10 per annum for each mile of river leased. Royalty at the rate of 2½ per cent. collected on the output after it exceeds $10,000.

W. W. CORY,
Deputy of the Minister of Interior.

N. B.—Unauthorized publications of this advertisement will not be paid for.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed Tenders addressed to the undersigned, marked on the envelope "Tender for Construction," will be received at the office of the Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway, at Ottawa, until twelve o'clock noon of the 14th day of February, 1907, for the work required for the construction, in accordance with the plans, profiles and specifications of the Commissioners, for the following sections of the Transcontinental Railway, viz.:

(1) District "A."—From a point designated on the plans of the Commissioners at or near the city of Moncton, in the Province of New Brunswick westerly for a distance of about 58 miles.

(2) District "A."—From a point designated on the plans of the Commissioners at or near the town of Grand Falls, in the Province of New Brunswick, westerly to the boundary between the Provinces of New Brunswick and Quebec, a distance of about 62 miles.

(3) District "B."—From a point designated on the plans of the Commissioners at or near the Quebec Bridge easterly for a distance of about 150 miles.

(4) District "B."—From a point designated on the plans of the Commissioners about 150 miles west of the Quebec Bridge westerly to a point known as Weymontachene, a distance of about 45 miles.

(5) Districts "C" and "D."—From a point designated on the plans of the Commissioners about eight miles west of the Abitibi River crossing easterly for a distance of about 150 miles.

Plans profiles and specifications may be seen in the office of the Chief Engineer of the Commissioners at Ottawa; also in the offices of the District Engineers concerned, viz.:—Guy C. Dunn, St. John, N.B.; A. E. Doucet, Quebec, P.Q.; and S. R. Poulin, North Bay, Ont.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made in duplicate, and on the printed forms supplied by the Commissioners.

A separate tender must be submitted for each section.

Tenderers shall not be in any way entitled to rely upon the classification or any other information given by any person on behalf of the Commissioners, and must submitting any tender,

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bidders should make a careful examination of the plans, profiles, drawings and specifications, and read the forms to be executed, and fully inform themselves as to the quantity and quality of materials, and character of workmanship required; and are understood to accept and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions contained in the form of contract, specifications, &c., annexed to the form of tender.

In case of "perswation" the entry will be summarily cancelled and the applicant will forfeit all priority of claim.

An applicant for inspection must be eligible for homestead entry, and only one applicant for inspection will be received from an individual until that application has been disposed of.

Any person whose tender is accepted will be held in ten days after the acceptance of, furnish such additional approved security as may be required by the Commissioners; sign the contract, specifications and other documents required to be signed by the said Commissioners; and, in any case if refusal or failure on the part of the party whose tender is accepted to complete and execute a contract with the said Commissioners, and to furnish the additional approved security within ten days after the acceptance of the tender, the said cheque shall be forfeited to the Commissioners as liquidated damages for such refusal or failure, and all contract rights acquired by the acceptance of the tender shall be forfeited. The cheques deposited by parties whose tenders are accepted will be deposited to the credit of the Receiver General of Canada as part of the security for the due and faithful performance of the contract according to its items. Cheques deposited by parties whose tenders are rejected will be returned within ten days after the signing of the contract.

"All mechanics, labourers or other persons who perform labour for the purposes of the construction of the works hereby contracted for shall be paid such wages as are generally accepted as current for competent workmen in the district in which the work is being performed and if there is no current rate in such district, then a fair and reasonable rate; and, in the event of a dispute arising as to what is the current or a fair and reasonable rate, it shall be determined by the Commissioners, whose decision shall be final."

"This agreement is subject to the regulations now in force, or which may at any time hereafter be in force during the construction of the works hereby contracted for, made under the authority of the Department of Labour, and which are or shall be applicable to such works." (The schedule of Minimum wages determined upon by said department will form part of the contract.)

The contractor shall conform to the fire regulations adopted by the Commissioners; and also to the laws and regulations respecting fires in the different Provinces wherein the work is being performed.

The right is reserved to reject any or all tenders.

By order
P. E. RYAN,
Secretary.
The Commissioners of the Transcontinental Railway,
Ottawa, Jan. 5th, 1907.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the King's Printer will not be paid for it.
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