

Dwight Star and Herald.

VOLUME XLVII

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, MARCH 30, 1912

NUMBER 13

LETTER FROM CUBA

Interesting Incidents and Data from the Travels of a Dwight Citizen who has been Spending Some Time in Historic Island

Major Curtis J. Judd wrote to a friend in Dwight three letters containing notes of his traveling experiences in Cuba, which should have reached Dwight on different days but which all came in the same mail. We are fortunate in securing all three of the communications which are published herewith. Major Judd has already left Cuba and is now in Mississippi. We feel sure that all his Dwight friends will be gratified by this additional evidence that he remembers them in spite of his novel surroundings.

Havana.

Havana, the winter Mecca of Americans, was founded in 1519 by Diego Velasquez. Old Fort La Fuerza is the recognized "corner-stone." Today with four hundred thousand people and most condensed in area of any city in America, the laws and customs have not materially changed. The harbor entrance is one-fourth of a mile wide, with Morro Castle connected by Cabanas Fortress, a grim sentinel on a natural bed of rocks, or cut from it two hundred feet above the sea; on the left, opposite La Fuerza with the exception of San Domingo, the oldest fortification in America, joins the Maracaon defenses.

All foreign ships anchor at bays one-half mile or more from docks. Passengers and cargoes are discharged and received only through lighters, a concession still being in force for royalty and tonnage for the benefit of the city, amounting to about \$2,500,000 annually. Many of the Cathedrals, churches and buildings of ancient days retain their substantial appear-

ance, with a little gray mouldy surface to indicate antiquity. The Columbus Cathedral, built by the Jesuits in 1704, has two bells dated 1664 and 1698 which ring in as musical tones as in 1795 when the bones of Columbus were deposited in the wall of the chancel; a few years later they were placed in a tomb in centre under the dome and still later in 1898, transferred to Seville. The robes and silver which are sometimes shown have been in use for over two hundred years.

The peculiar feature of a Cuban residence is the interior court, about which the house is built; it is paved, open to the sky and surrounded by galleries on which all the rooms open. On the tiled floor of the court there are tropical plants and flowers in profusion.

Sleeping rooms have tiled floors with single rug in front of the bed. A twenty-foot folding blind with movable slats takes the place of a window, when outside walls permit. A rod extends from bottom to top with a clamp which turned to the right locks the rod at both ends; turn the same to the left and it drops into a socket, securely locking the blind. The inside court door is solid paneled style, with lock. There is a half-length, double door outside with hook to use during day.

The Havana buildings are of rough rubble covered smoothly with cement. The outside door generally of heavily studded native wood with an interior wicket door. No alleys; everything comes and goes through the front. A colonade presents an additional sidewalk.

Every evening the Prado and Parks are filled with a moving mass of home people in holiday attire. One would think it a special occasion but as it occurs every pleasant night, it must be a custom. I have never seen a drunken Cuban and this is my fourth visit. The cafe tables with bar attachments fully exposed by open slat folding blinds for windows and paneled doors wide open, are well patronized for soft drinks only, made from fresh fruits, many also enjoying the black coffee. I have seen two or three "American Bar" signs, for the benefit of visitors who think life is not complete without whisky straight.

The neatly sky-blue uniformed Cuban police and the clean kaki suits of the soldiers, all thoroughly armed, resemble in age, young college fellows; unusually well trained, mounted cavalry are stationed at principal street crossings, neither of which class seem to have anything to do but rest.

Obispo, O'Reilly and San Rafael streets offer chief attractions for tourist shoppers; the first two, twelve feet wide with awnings extending across sidewalks less than three feet wide, display windows at edge of walks. Fans of every imaginable variety and price, with dainty exquisite and elaborate wearing apparel, including rich laces, embroideries and piece goods, keep American girls busy wrangling with shop clerks as to values in "plata or oro."

The Parks are bordered with Gothic fruitstands, where for two to five cents you are favored with choicest fruits carved ready for eating, many of an unknown variety and rarely tempting one to make a second purchase; oranges, caimitoes, pine apples, sapadillos, grapes, mamas and bananas luscious enough to take some chance on the others.

The Cubans are descendants of the Spanish; all Spanish children born in Cuba are original Cubans. There are only two specially industrious classes noticeable: the cab drivers and lottery ticket vendors. You meet them everywhere and on all occasions; to patronize either makes you a distinguished mark for all others. One reason for a Cuban's reputation for a lack of industry, enterprise or prosperity is found in manner of conversation, which is more like a spirited argument, spinning their sentences if there is any dividing line, like an electric fan, using fingers, hands, arms and head in vigorous emphatic support, gymnastic and grotesque. This carried to the excess it is, naturally exhausts all physical means for further industrial efforts. Listening to a Cuban baseball fan, with betting attachments, is proof that, with his hands tied, death would instantly follow from strangulation.

Outside trips of thirty to sixty miles give a fair idea of the cultivation and country life. Between Havana and Guines, Providencia, Guanajay and Matanzas, along railways in either direction, fertile valleys are capable of raising excellent crops and fruit, but I have never seen on the four routes, an orange, pine apple or banana grove of twenty trees. The few scattering trees and plants surround the living place of some slovenly Cuban farmer. You very often see a few weather-beaten windowless shacks built of the fronds and bark of the Royal Palm, a few surrounding huts with a limited number of fruit and shade trees; the harvested or growing crops is represented almost solely by flocks of game chickens and chocolate colored children in similar proportions; the chickens show more feathers than meat, the children under five years of course show more wool than feathers.

Anything like industry or prosperity, beyond two or three browsing yoke of oxen, a big wheeled cart with a high crated box, a crooked tree plow and the climate, is not visible. Sugar cane and tobacco fields show attractions and the wonder is why these valleys of natural rich red soil are not better occupied. Groves of Royal Palm cocconut and laurel are few. Bushes like wild plum, ground palm and the seisal plant are quite easily cleared. Cane and tobacco fields are often ten to fifty acres in extent and are such portions of a large ranch so that the owner has methods of securing labor in times of need to preserve his crop which the small farmer is deprived of; not half a dozen fairly good frame houses are found in a hundred miles travel.

Eating forms a main feature of American existence and language on the subject in Cuba (not proper for publication) should be suppressed if possible. The favored fruits are insipid, excessively sweet and nause-

ILLINOIS FACTS

Unanswerable Argument for County Option

The following tables were compiled from the Official Reports of the United States and the various departments of the State of Illinois for 1906—the latest year for which complete figures can be had.

Classes of Counties (Saloons per 100,000)	Average Number of Saloons per 100,000	Admitted to Jail per 100,000	Inmates of Penitentiary per 100,000	Inmates in Reform and St. Charles Schools per 100,000	Insane in Asylums and Alms houses per 100,000	Percentage of School Attendance	Average Tax Rate	Taxes Collected Per Capita	Divorces per 100,000
Class I (0-100 Saloons per 100,000) 50 Counties	46	206	33	20	203	78	4.59	8.72	84
Class II (100-200 Saloons per 100,000) 30 Counties	143	347	47	27	218	72	4.71	10.34	97
Class III (200 or more Saloons per 100,000) 22 Counties	392	435	60	28	250	66	5.06	11.34	147

A Study of Two Southern Illinois Counties

EDWARDS County has been without saloons for years
ALEXANDER County has always been one of the wettest counties in the state

County	Average Number of Saloons per 100,000	Admitted to Jail per 100,000	Inmates of Penitentiary per 100,000	Inmates in Reform and St. Charles Schools per 100,000	Insane in Asylums and Alms houses per 100,000	Percentage of School Attendance	Average Tax Rate	Taxes Collected Per Capita	Divorces per 100,000
Edwards County	0	29	0	0	193	83	3.90	5.30	50
Alexander County	200	982	361	66	300	57	5.66	12.02	180

CONCLUSIONS

1. This table embraces ALL of the State of Illinois;
2. Criminals, Insane, Taxes and Divorces INCREASE as Saloons Increase;
3. School attendance DECREASES as Saloons Increase;
4. And There is No Exception To This Rule.

ating. The cooking is abominable; collections of good material swabbed in olive oil and smothered in garlic, courses mostly unfamiliar are recognized in combinations beyond recognition. Meats, fruits, fish and vegetables present conditions perfectly indescribable, with such uncertainty of fork and spoon that one hesitates whether to attack as hash or soup. However, the breakfast is always safe: rolls, egg and villainous coffee—most appetizing meal of the day. As a sample dish: half cooked rice with scattering pieces of fat pork, shopped raisins and olives, a soft boiled egg poured over it, with a dressing of boiled condensed milk, salted to prevent souring. Verily this is a climate for dyspeptics—no danger of over-eating. Even the desserts, except one is absolutely quiet until digested, seem to partake of the rest-less nature of the sea. To the tender-foot visitor who seeks only home comforts in travel—foreign missionaries, clerical and professional reformers, who must fail to reach the acme of forcible expression by example—Havana offers a haven of moral quiet in the shape of three American hotels. I, however, prefer to experience the interesting novelty of a purely Spanish hotel service with three-course lunches and five-course dinners, selecting as temptation offers and enjoying the surprises.

With all the minor discomforts, Cuba is certainly an attractive asylum for frozen Americans, five months of winter is like the very best of our summer. The ocean service is short and the foreign situation of visiting Spain and Italy is one every tempting. The climate is simply delightful, eighty degrees in day time and seventy degrees at night, with a balmy breeze to soften and dry out the ocean atmosphere.

The thirty bodies remaining of the crew of the "Maine" were transferred from Cabanas Fortress during night of March 14th, to the City Hall and lay in state, to be visited by the public during the 15th. Each in a metal casket draped with black cloth, flowers and crossed flags of United States and Cuba. Under an arched entrance of draped flags, visitors passed up a stairway bordered by flags, flowers and plants, to the Hall, which in somber black, guarded by a cordon of Cuban soldiers, was visited by over ten thousand people. On the 16th at two o'clock the remainder of the "Maine," consisting of two hundred feet of stern, was towed out from the coffer-dam, with a large United States flag at masthead, to the three mile limit from the harbor, escorted by the North Carolina and the Birmingham, besides line steamships and six loads of visitors on harbor steamers, the ships and forts saluting with guns and half mast flags. At five o'clock the lines formed on east and west giving free view from Morro Castle and the Malaco heights; the signal gun was fired to scuttle the sorrowful remains of the once great and proud member of our navy. The stern was now the bow and in twenty minutes the ragged end was noticed to sag, the bow raising high, gave a plunge backward and shot from sight, the flag giving us the last waving good-

bye, as it sank in two hundred fathoms, midst the salutes from the escort. All gone but History! I visited the "Maine" on deck and below a few days ago and witnessed the final scene from grand stand on the Malaco, where with or without the glass, the view was plain and distinct.

What is the future of Cuba? That is the great question. Under present government there is little encouragement for United States emigration. All the steam railways are English in

ownership and management. The title to real estate is questionable. American colonies have been established in several places, but the success of opening American settlements is slow. Unless the Americans can supplant the Cubans in developing the resources of the soil, no perceptible improvement is in sight. With Cuba annexed—nothing could more substantially and favorably serve each party, but the Cubans are trying to

(Continued on Page 16)

VOTE FOR LEN. SMALL

THE KANKAKEE FARMER CANDIDATE FOR THE REPUBLICAN NOMINATION FOR GOVERNOR



Primary Election Tuesday, April 9, 1912.

Len. Small stands for economical business administration. He stands for efficiency and humanity in the care of the state's unfortunate wards. He represents the interests of the farmers, the business men and all men who work. He has always gone to the Republican party for endorsement and has never been defeated by the people at the polls. He believes in true Republicanism and stands for the principles of the Republican party. The interests of the people will be protected, safe-guarded and advanced if he is elected. He will not be controlled by any combination, faction nor trust press. Vote for Len. Small. He is the only down state Republican who can win, as he will get more votes in Cook county than any other candidate.

CHARLES S. DENEEN FOR GOVERNOR



Those who favor him

- Those who favor honest politics.
- Those who favor civil service.
- Those who favor labor legislation.
- Those interested in more perfect charitable institutions.
- Those interested in pure food laws.
- Those interested in education.
- The Farmers' Institute people.
- Those who believe the State should receive the interest on public funds.

Those who oppose him

- All of Senator Lorimer's friends.
- All disappointed office-seekers.
- All legislative jack-potters.
- The Illinois Central Railroad.
- Those against the People's Primary Law and the Civil Service Law.
- Those against factory inspection.
- Those against safety appliances for workmen.

Deneen can't be bought.
He can't be scared.
He fights for the people and they are for him.