

FLOGGED TO RIBBONS

HORRIBLE CONDITIONS PREVAIL IN SPANISH PRISONS.

Men Left to Die All Half Naked—Man Who Spoke Once Received 200 Lashes That Killed Him.

Madrid, May 21.—Spanish prisons have at all times an unsavory reputation, and the name of Montjuich has to this day a sinister sound. From time to time the Spanish press has dilated upon the atrocities practiced in the prisons of this country, and has called vigorously for their suppression and for the punishment of the offenders. A few days ago a representative of the Madrid newspaper, *Heraldo*, paid a visit to the prison of Figueras, in Catalonia, and the facts to which he has given publicity show the urgent need for reform.

In the prison infirmary he found a man of herculean build whose head and arms were swathed in bandages. This man, Santiago by name, had been a soldier and had fought in the Cuban war with such bravery that he won the Cross of Honor of San Fernando. On his release from service in 1895 he returned to his native place only to find that his wife had been seduced. Santiago killed the man and was condemned to death, but in view of his honorable record as a soldier, the sentence was commuted to one of hard labor.

Interrogated on the subject of his bandages, the ex-soldier said he had attacked a warder, who had then fired upon him. The son of the director of the prison was present during the interview, and the convict was silent as to the real cause of the injuries.

From other prisoners, however, the representative of the *Heraldo* gathered that Santiago had tried to defend himself from the warder, who had maltreated him, upon which he was seized, half choked, and brutally flogged. Then the warder fired at him with his revolver, with the idea of permanently disabling him.

The convicts also asserted that on entering the prison all their money and every object of value is taken from them, and nothing is ever returned to them. For the slightest misdeed the prisoners were flogged unmercifully. The *Heraldo's* correspondent who bore scars and other marks of ill-treatment.

"Ask what Moreno died of," whispered one of them in his ear. The question was put, and the son of the prison superintendent replied: "Moreno was a wild beast. He killed a warder with a knife. What did he die of? Oh, the prison doctor diagnosed it as organic debility." From another prisoner the *Heraldo's* representative learned that Moreno had first been scourged till his back was cut into ribbons, and was then thrown into a subterranean dungeon without food or drink, where he died of starvation.

Cases demanding severe punishment are assigned to a cell known among the prisoners as "Siberia." This is a subterranean dungeon, mousier in atmosphere, with walls running with moisture, with an opening about two feet in height and scarcely wider than a hand-breadth for the admission of light and air.

When the *Heraldo's* representative entered it he saw stretched round the men "chained like dogs," to use the description in the *Heraldo*. Skeleton-like in aspect, the eyes of the unhappy prisoners seemed to be fixed in an expression of absolute despair. They knew only too well that "Siberia" was, for them, the ante-room to the tomb. They would never see again the sunshine, or breathe a pure air; they would die one after the other, a lingering death in that dark and pestilential atmosphere. Their only food was a little mouldy grain and putrid water. Even speech was denied them, and the unhappy prisoner who had ventured to expostulate received 200 blows—that is, he was beaten to death. Since June last year twenty-three men had been assigned to "Siberia," of whom four had died.

"Siberia" was the ingenious idea of the director of the prison, and Dr. Pla, the medical man in charge of the establishment, at first ventured to hint that the place did not fulfil sanitary requirements, but met with the brutal reply: "So much the better, we shall be the more quickly rid of these vagabonds." The director attempted to justify his methods to the representative of the *Heraldo* by saying that for the surveillance of the 800 prisoners assigned to his charge he was only allowed five warders, and that severe measures were absolutely necessary for the maintenance of discipline.

"Once they were relaxed," he added, "the prisoners would be the masters of the situation." The revelations of



HERESY, THE WINNER.
The three-year-old colt that on Saturday won the king's plate at the Woodbine Races, Toronto.

the *Heraldo* have made a painful impression, and at a recent cabinet council it was decided to send a high government official from the department of justice to open an inquiry. The Liberal adjures the government to make a prompt and thorough investigation, and not to stifle the scandal, as is too often, it avers, the custom in Spain.

The Longest Bar.
Inquiries were made of the auditor for Lewis county by the Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation Company regarding the price of a license permitting it to sell liquor on its trains, and the question arose as to whether the railroad must take out a separate license for each train or if one would be sufficient.

Auditor Swoford ruled that the railroad would be required to take out a license for a bar 26 miles long, that being the length of the company's line across the county. This would allow the company the right to sell liquor on any part of its right-of-way.—Centralia Co. St. Paul Pioneer Press.

Mrs. Clara McGowan, wife of James McGowan, Belleville, died, Friday, after a brief illness. Deceased was thirty-six years of age.

NEW ENGLAND ROMANCE.

Man Believed Lost at Sea to Wed Sweetheart.

San Francisco, May 18.—James McDonald arrived here, yesterday, on the steamer *Harvard*, en route to Alberta, Canada, to meet Miss Harriet Woodside, his sweetheart of twenty-five years ago, who, until a week ago, he believed him dead.

McDonald sailed from the New England coast in the whaling bark *Fannie Griffith*, a quarter of a century ago on a voyage for his health. He expected to return and be married. The *Fannie Griffith* was wrecked. McDonald was believed to have been lost.

After many hardships he returned to the New England village and found that Miss Woodside had married. He did not let his presence become known and returned to the sea. In following years he occasionally had news of his old-time fiancée through a common friend. He learned last week in Los Angeles that her husband had died, and he left for Canada next day.

THEY SEEK HIS HAND.

Seventeen Fiancées Wish to Marry Him.

Geneva, May 18.—Albert Stierli, a handsome Swiss plumber, was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, for defrauding seventeen young women, to whom he had become engaged at the same time. All of them still want to marry him. The judge remarked that Stierli would commit a more serious crime if he had "married the lot," at which there was laughter in court. Stierli seemed glad when he was led away by two sendarmes, as the majority of his fiancées were in the court.

A Pleasant Announcement!

Winnipeg Free Press.

A Canadian correspondent who submitted a serious question to the Canadian Gazette of London is informed that "if Bonar Law has the decisive word when a unionist ministry comes into power, duties ranging from five to ten per cent. will be put (1) on foreign wheat, with free entry for Canadian; (2) on foreign flour, with probably a lesser duty on Canadian flour; (3) on foreign animals and meat, dairy products, market garden produce and hay and straw, with lesser duties on similar Canadian produce." The dominance of Mr. Law in British politics will thus mean that Canadian flour, animals, meat, dairy produce, vegetables, hay, etc., which now enter the British market free, will have to overcome the obstacles of hostile customs duties. There may be benighted people in Canada who do not think this will be an improvement on the present state of affairs.

Big Men for Big Jobs.

Canadian Courier.
Has it struck you, the number of big jobs waiting for big men? There are probably fifty positions now vacant waiting for big men to fill them—positions worth all the way from five to fifty thousand a year. Eight million people in Canada, of whom more than one million are men; and yet it is difficult to find big men.

And what are the tests of a big man? Just two—character and ability. Character is made by our parents and teachers; ability we inherit and develop. Character isn't of much account without ability, and ability is worth little without character.

Whose fault is it that Canada is short of men with ability and character? It is either the fault of our parents or our teachers. Which do you think?

Needle in Infant's Heart.

Questioning the mother at a Folkstone inquest on a girl, aged one year and ten months, who had died from a supposed attack of bronchitis, the coroner said:

"Were you darning on Sunday?"
The mother, Mrs. Godden, replied, "Yes, sir."
"Did you use the needle again?"
"No, I was nursing the child. I had the needle in my bodice, and missed it afterward."

A doctor who held a post-mortem examination produced the child's heart. A large darning needle was imbedded in the centre, the ends showing at either side.

A verdict of hemorrhage, caused by the accidental insertion of a needle, was returned.—Folkstone, Eng., cable in Washington Post.

A Pathetic Spectacle.

The spectacle of the aged statesman, Sir Charles Tupper, conveying his dead wife across the sea to her last resting place in Nova Scotia is a pathetic one. In 1900, immediately after the general election, Sir Charles resolved to relinquish the leadership of the Conservative party. Before he sent a telegram to his wife who was in Winnipeg, saying: "I intend to resign the leadership and devote the rest of my life to you." This message was from a grand old man whose present bereavement and ocean vigil will excite the sympathy of all his countrymen.

Gave up Berth; Gets \$100,000.

New Haven, Conn., May 18.—Ernest W. Marlow, a young New York lawyer who gave up his berth in a crowded pullman to an elderly woman, on a train between New York and Richmond several years ago will receive nearly \$100,000 for his kindness. The elderly woman, Mrs. Helen Marsh of this city, made him her residuary legatee, and the appraisal of the estate just filed here specifies the amount which he will get as \$98,100.

Captain's Widow to Get \$750.

Toronto, May 18.—A settlement whereby the Muriel Steamship company pays the widow of Capt. J. A. Whiteside, of Owen Sound, \$1,000 damages for the death of her husband, was ratified at Osgoode Hall, by Justice Biddell. Capt. Whiteside was in command of the steamer *Arcadia*, and was killed by a falling boom while the boat was unloading at Port Arthur. Of the \$1,000 the sum of \$750 goes to the widow and \$250 to a twenty-year-old son.

The average man is just as sharp or dull as his point of view.

WAR SCARE FELL FLAT

NO CREDIT GIVEN TO STATEMENTS ABOUT RUSSIA.

A Paris Paper Predicted Commercial Partitioning of the Ottoman Empire by the Czar.

London, Eng., May 21.—A war scare launched by the Daily Telegraph on Saturday has fallen flat in London. It is virtually ignored here. The scare was based on a story in the Paris *Elclair* that M. Georges Louis, had been recalled on a demand by Foreign Minister Ivanovskiy on Premier Poincare. The demand was made, it is stated, because M. Louis worked contrary to Russian plans to help Italy diplomatically against Turkey and secure as a reward the opening of the Dardanelles to its navy.

The scare plot was thickened by tangling it up with the Marshall Von Bieberstein incident. Europe was described as being in a helpless drift towards a crisis which was due to Russian schemes to grab spheres of influence in Asia Minor and open the Dardanelles.

Germany was ready to take advantage of the scheme by regularizing her status in Syria and Asia Minor. The outcome indicated is "the commercial partition of Turkey." England was to be bribed to accord by the offer of a liberal share of the spoils. Unfortunately, the Times simultaneously discounts the story by showing that M. Louis was slated to go several months ago because his wife could not stand the Russian climate. The paper adds that Russia has no complaint against M. Louis, who is now in Paris and has formally announced after an interview with M. Poincare that he intends to return to St. Petersburg.

No change is expected, until after the meeting between M. Sazonoff and Premier Poincare, a few weeks hence. Therefore, there is obviously no crisis. Indeed, all the premises after the Telegraph's deductions are granted remain misty. It is admitted that no power is working to produce a coalition. The greatest danger seemed to lie in the theory that Great Britain, as the world's greatest Mohammedan power might find it to her interest to vigorously negative any sort of spoilation or partition of the dominions of the sultan, whom all her Moslem subjects regard as the viceroy of the prophet.

What Britain Wants.

Ottawa Journal.
Mr. Churchill says that Britain will welcome assistance on the sea. This disposes of the plea that land forces and land defences will fulfil Canadian duty, in the eyes of the rest of the empire. He says that Britain will soon need assistance. This should never need to be said again by a responsible British public man to Canadians who think they want to remain under the British flag. He intimates that the best manner of contributing aid is for the outlying dominions to qualify themselves to look after their own naval neighborhood in time of war, so that the central British can concentrate against the enemy wherever concentration will be most effective. This points to a Canadian navy as the development which Great Britain desires.

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