

Queint Old CAMAGUEY

Cuba's Most Primitive City



When Columbus discovered Cuba in 1492 he landed on the north coast of what is now Puerto Principe, and historians assert that a town bearing the name of that province was established there as early as 1515. At that time pirates infested the sea and were a terror to the inhabitants along the coast. They so harassed the early settlers of the island that the latter moved further into the interior and thus was founded the town of Camaguey. Today it retains more of the evidences and customs of the sixteenth century than any other city in Cuba. It has a population of more than 50,000 people, many of whose ideas and modes of living are as primitive as they were three centuries ago. The very quaintness of the place is its chief attraction to the American. Its tiled, fluted roofs, its narrow stone-paved streets, its crooked streets, which are literally made up of curves, all add to its interest as well as indicate its antiquity. Tradition has it that the streets were built after this fashion to fool the pirates who pursued the settlers even to the interior. The architecture of old Spain predominates and the houses have been painted in every conceivable color. One house, however, on the Caridad, the Padro of Camaguey, is a travesty on the harmony of colors—with brilliant red columns supported by a base of the most vivid green.

The streets present an interesting picture. There are no street cars to mar their antique charm, although one is not obliged to walk for the diminutive victrolas so common in the West Indies are plentiful in Camaguey and one may ride for a trifle. The Calle Republic is the principal business street, and it presents an interesting appearance at all times. The old Spanish custom of the clerks eating and sleeping in the shops where they are employed is in vogue here, and even after the stores are closed they sit within the barred windows talking, smoking and strumming on guitars. There are plenty of sidewalk merchants as well, for the Cuban woman rarely goes shopping, and in consequence of this the vendor must come to her. The Cuban loves sweets and dozens of boys carry trays of sticky little cakes from house to house, offering their goods to the women, who peer through the barred windows. At the noon hour boys can be seen carrying food put up in sectional dinner pails which are swung on a stick holding three or four. This is the result of the servant problem, as many people

resort to having their meals sent from the hotels rather than bother with inefficient servants. The man who makes drinks from sugar cane, too, is a familiar sight. He uses a machine which he carries on his back after the fashion of the American seisor grinder. This he sets up at different points where the people congregate. He also carries a supply of fresh sugar cane, and when a customer appears he places a stick of green cane in the squeezer and turns a big wheel, the result being a glass of pure, sweet juice. His tumblers are of various sizes, which are used in his sales, ranging from two to five cents per glass. The waterman with his goatcart is always on hand, for the ciestern water caught in the peculiar tinajones is not always palatable for drinking, and the water for this purpose is delivered in five-gallon cans by the water merchants.

The ox is another beast of burden in Camaguey. These animals creep along in lazy fashion, while their driver, far more lazy, is half the time asleep. They wear little harness and pull from the head. Often the sides of the carts are built of the bamboo which grows in profusion throughout the island and is rarely exported. The Cuban oxen do wake up sometimes, and the writer once saw one of them give an exhibition of gymnastics with his hind feet which would have done credit to a Missouri mule. Live chickens are peddled from door to door in small cages. The Cuban housekeeper always buys her chickens alive. They are usually killed soon after the purchase and brought to the table two or three hours later, with the result that the meat of the fowl is tough and stringy. Sugar cane leaves make good provender for the oxen, and little goats are loaded with the bright green leaves or constantly bumping about the streets of the old city.

There seems to be little danger of the town being accused of race suicide, for there are children everywhere, and as no Camaguey child is expected to wear clothes until it is at least seven years of age, everywhere in the streets one encounters little brown-skinned children absolutely nude playing in the sunshine. Truly the streets of Camaguey present a kaleidoscope of color and unique pictures. The ancient city has, like other cities of Cuba, a large number of churches, and from whatever direction it is approached its church towers stand out conspicuously above the tall palm trees against the sky. Most of



Carrying Dinners from the Hotel to Private Homes

The Sugar Cane Juice Man

The Queen Tina Jones (Cisterns) Used for Water

A Water Wagon

these edifices are old, some of them having been built many centuries ago, their time-worn walls contributing in no small degree to the ancient appearance of the city. The Church of Nuestra Señora de la Caridad is one of the most picturesque old edifices in the West Indies. La Merced is, however, the most important one, and was built away back in 1628, and its walls are from four to eight feet thick while its tower is constructed of a species of Cuban hardwood which lasts for centuries. It was erected by the missionaries of Our Lady of Mercy, who were sent to the island by the Spanish order founded at Barcelona early in the thirteenth century. The order finally died out in Camaguey until only one priest was left. Just before his death he turned the church over to the care of the Barefooted Carmelite monks, who also came from Spain. A dozen or more of these good men live at the monastery attached to the church, and one of their number always accompanies the visitor about the sacred edifice.

A volume might be written on these wonderful churches of Cuba with their fine old paintings, splendid vestments and rich mural decorations, and at Camaguey particularly do these edifices appeal to one as their time worn walls greet you at every turn. Not alone does the ancient beauty of the church appeal to one, but there seems to be something uncanny about their black-robed Spanish priests with their peculiar shuffling step as they move in and out of the strange looking confessionals. One feels a certain awe of the chanting of the cowed acolytes as they move noiselessly about the magnificent altars. Men and women prostrate themselves before the Madonna and there is a magnificent splendor about the whole service which leaves a lasting impression on the mind of the visitor. Up to the first American occupation Camaguey depended almost wholly upon cisterns for her water supply, and although there are several arte-

sian wells bored by the United States government in the town at present many of the residents still use the old tinajones. These water receptacles resemble huge jardinerias and are made by being turned over a core on a potter's wheel. Many of them are six feet in diameter and will hold 500 gallons of water. As none have been manufactured for at least 50 years the old earthen jars will soon give way to a more modern method of supplying water.

Many fine old Spanish residences are still preserved in the city. These have been owned by the same families for several generations. Indeed, the entire white population of the city is descended from twenty or thirty old families, there being less mixture with negro blood here than anywhere in Cuba and the color line is strictly drawn. The women are unusually pretty, and as all the old Spanish ideas of life are carried out the women are especially custom fettered, and the women's suffrage movement is not likely to prove popular in Camaguey.

Several beautiful plazas adorn the city—big, open parks where the band plays in the evening, and music and church going form a large part of Cuban life, and both of these are seen and heard at their best in this strange antiquated city. One of these large plazas has been given the name of Plaza Charles A. Dana, in grateful recognition of the services rendered to the cause of Cuban independence by the New York editor. The inhabitants of Camaguey have always been noted for their independence, and when the Spanish governor-general visited the city the public buildings were decorated, but the story is told of how the residents closed their doors and windows and ignored him completely. During the Spanish-American war the revolutionists had their headquarters in the Cabillas hills, not many miles from Camaguey

—a place known to this day as the "Guerrillas' Eden."

The province of Puerto Principe is the very heart of the grazing country and the land about Camaguey is made up of cattle farms. During the Spanish regime this province furnished the bulls for the rings all over Cuba, and it is still the chief source of the meat supply. The meat prepared there and retailed by the Cubans is known as "tassajo," and is nothing more or less than the jerked beef of the far west, salted and dried in the sun.

Not the least interesting point in the town is the old Christo cemetery, with its ancient vaults. Graves are rented for a term of years in Cuba—usually for five years, but in Camaguey many of the tombs are owned in perpetuity and the marble vaults have borne the same bodies for many generations. These vaults are curious studies with their queer old Spanish inscriptions. The Potter's field section is rather gruesome, made so from the fact that a body is only allowed to remain in the grave two years and after that time the bones are scattered about to make room for some other unfortunates. Portions of skulls and bones from all parts of the human anatomy are to be found scattered over the ground bleaching under the hot glare of the tropical sun.

For many years Camaguey lacked good hotel accommodations, but recently the old Spanish cavalry barracks at the edge of the town have been converted into a hostelry, and its appearance is in keeping with the other surroundings. There is a sentry box in the drawing room, the stones which make up the paving of the hallway shows marks of horses' hoofs, as for more than fifty years this doorway served as the entrance for the troopers who fought under the Spanish flag. The patio (open space around which the barracks are built) is filled with tropical plants and there are giant bamboo trees all about. Blessed with a delightful climate, filled with the charm of antiquity, and as yet unspoiled by the tourist, this primitive city in the center of "The Pearl of the Antilles" is well worth visiting.

Caribbean Politics

XVIII.—The Panama Election.

By Frederick J. Haaklin

Panama, P. I.—It has remained for this, the youngest of the American republics, to bring forth an unusual but excellent cure for revolutions. Realizing that partisan feeling runs too high at election time in Spanish America to permit of even the slightest approach to fairness on either side, and firmly trusting in the ability of the United States to play the role of an umpire, both parties have joined in petitioning Uncle Sam to stand watch at the voting places of the republic during the days of registration and the day of voting. The United States has accepted the trust and will see to it that the man who gets the most votes wins. One can readily imagine what would happen in some of the other republics of the Caribbean if such a proposal were made to the United States. But if the contending factions could agree to copy the plan of Panama and then abide the result, what a long step in the direction of better conditions it would be! In requesting the good offices of the government of the United States in assisting them to hold a fair election, the parties in Panama are not making an untried experiment. In 1908 President Amador, a conservative, wanted a conservative to succeed him, and began manipulating the registration books in such a way that success seemed to be within his grasp. The liberal candidate was Governor Obaldia of Colon province. He and his followers saw how things were going, and that liberal voters were being intimidated at the places of registration. It began to look as if there would be a revolution in Panama. But at this juncture J. C. S. Blackburn, sometime United States senator from Kentucky, and at that time governor of the canal zone, intervened. He told both parties that the United States did not care which side won in the election, but that it did insist upon a fair election, and would see to it that such an election was held. He said

that peace in Panama was essential to the success of the work of constructing the Panama canal, and that peace could not be had without fair elections. He announced that the United States intended to put marines at every place of registration and voting in the republic, whose duty it would be to see that every voter was permitted to register and to vote. This was done, and it resulted in the triumph of the liberals and the election of Obaldia. But both sides saw that Uncle Sam meant exactly what he said when he announced that all he desired was a fair election. Both victor and vanquished accepted the result as a proper and just one, and Panama settled down to four years of peace and prosperity. President Obaldia unfortunately died when he had served a little less than two years. The Panama method of securing a successor to a president is unique. There is no vice president, but instead three men are chosen by the national assembly, the single house of the Panama legislature, who serve as first, second and third designates, or designates, according to their rank on the list of appointment. Each designate holds office for two years, and then three new designates are chosen. If the presidential office becomes vacant, the first designate takes it up. But if, for any reason, he does not do so, or if he has died prior to the occurrence of the vacancy, the honor goes to the second designate, who, in turn, would be succeeded in the same way by the third designate. But when a designate's term of office expires, no matter if he has succeeded to the presidency, he retires from office, and the new set of designates is chosen, with full knowledge that the new first designate will take the presidential chair. The selection of President Arosemena came about in that way. When President Obaldia died on March 1, 1910, there was a vacancy in the position of first designate, the incumbent having died a year earlier. There-

fore the second designate assumed the presidency and administered it until his two-year term as designate expired, which was not many months later. Meanwhile, the fight over the selection of the designates for the ensuing two years became a hard one, since the first designate would become president for two years. It resulted in the naming of Dr. Pablo Arosemena as first designate, and therefore as president for the two years now drawing to a close. Dr. Arosemena has made a good president, but like all other Spanish-American rulers, he developed an ambition to succeed himself, regardless of the clause in the constitution of the republic making a president ineligible to succeed himself. But he did not plan to hold the office by force. He worked out a nice technicality which he hoped would let him get back for a second term. The constitution provides that no man succeeding to the presidency through the death or disability of his predecessor shall be eligible if he has held office within 18 months of the next election. Arosemena concluded that he could escape the inhibition of this section if he were to get the legislature to grant him a leave of absence from the duties of the presidency. He got this, and after some maneuvering for political advantage among the three designates, one of them temporarily took the office. Arosemena thought he had the situation well in hand, and that there would be no further obstacles in the way of a re-nomination. But the United States became inquisitive. There was a feeling around the state department that this might set a precedent, and that therefore it should be permitted only in the event that the technical situation would bear the acid test of constitutional law. About the first question the lawyers of the state department asked was as to the terms of the leave of absence. Was it for a definite period longer than the constitutionally prescribed period? If it had been, there would have been nothing else left but to permit Arosemena to be a candidate to succeed himself. In point of fact it was not. It was so worded as to be indefinite, permitting him to resume the reins of government whenever he chose. This would permit his leave to

be effective as long as his successor held the presidential chair in his interest, and to be cancelled the minute he failed to do so. Thereupon the state department officers decided that Arosemena still retained the power of president, and that his maneuver was wholly in violation of the spirit, and partially in violation of the letter of the constitution, and that the best interests of Panama would be consulted by advising Mr. Arosemena that he had just as well give up his ambitions to succeed himself. This he has done. Since then he has got behind the candidacy of Pedro A. Diaz, and has made him the administration candidate for the presidency. Whether he expects Diaz to be a "chair warmer" or "a man of straw," or whether he really wants to see him make good, deponent saith not. The party supporting the candidacy of Diaz has been named the "Union Patriotic." That Arosemena still retains his confidence in the United States despite its course in putting an end to his immediate presidential aspirations is shown by the fact that the directorate of this party, under his guidance, took the lead in asking Uncle Sam to umpire next fall's election. When Arosemena came to the presidency the conservatives went back into power, for Designate Arosemena was a conservative. The Panamanian minister to Washington, Dr. Bellasario Porras, was an out and out liberal. When Dr. Porras saw that Arosemena was playing for a second term, he threw up his diplomatic assignment in Washington and hastened back to Panama, where he entered the lists as the liberal candidate for president. He was met with a gratifying reception and has heartily joined in the request for American supervision of the election. It is probable that this supervision will take the same form of that of four years ago. The United States maintains a large detachment of marines at Camp Elliott, Canal zone, and it is probable that some of them will be detailed to the various registration and polling places in the republic to see to it that everything is done honestly. What expense is entailed will be borne by the Panama government. It is well able to meet

this outlay, for not only is it a country almost without a debt, having refused to assume any of the burdens of Columbia after its secession, but has a balance of some \$8,000,000, over \$6,000,000 of which is invested in New York real estate paying excellent returns. Tomorrow—Caribbean Politics. XIX.—Contented Costa Rica. SHE HAD CONSUMPTION, WAS DYING; NOW WELL Eckman's Alterative is being used with success in the treatment of tuberculosis in all parts of the country. Persons who have taken it improved, gained weight, exhausting night sweats stopped, fever diminished, and many recovered. If you are interested to know more about it, we will put you in touch with some who are now well. Read of Mrs. Govett's recovery. Griffith, Ind. "Gentlemen: In 1908, my mother-in-law (Mrs. Anna Govett) was taken sick with catarrhal pneumonia, and continually grew worse, requiring a trained nurse. The nurse informed me that she had tuberculosis and nothing could be done for her. The Rev. William Berg of St. Michael's church, at Shreveville, Ind., who prepared for her death, recommended that I get some Eckman's Alterative and see if it would not give her some relief. The physician told me that she had consumption and was beyond all medical aid. So I immediately sent for a bottle. Practically without hope for a recovery, I insisted that she try the Alterative, which she did. I am glad to say that she soon began to improve. Now, she frankly says she owes her life and health to Eckman's Alterative." "JOSEPH GRIMMEL." (Signed Affidavit.) Eckman's Alterative is effective in bronchitis, asthma, hay fever, throat and lung troubles, and in upbuilding the system. Does not contain poisons, opiates or habit-forming drugs. For sale by Missoula Drug company, George Freisheimer and other leading druggists. Ask for booklet telling of recoveries and write to Eckman Laboratory, Philadelphia, Pa., for additional evidence.

EXCURSIONS

Via OREGON SHORT LINE

EASTERN POINTS

From Butte, Anaconda and Helena to Chicago, Milwaukee and return \$57.50
St. Louis, Mo.; Peck Island, Ill.; Davenport, Iowa, and return \$54.00
Peoria, Ill.; and return \$55.15
Missouri river terminals, Sioux City to Kansas City and return \$45.00
Denver, Colorado Springs, Pueblo and return \$37.50
Des Moines, Iowa, and return \$47.80

Tickets on sale May 18, 25 and 27; June 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22 and 29; July 3, 12 and 20; August 1, 2, 23 and 31; September 4 and 5; open going transit limit 10 days; final return limit October 31. Liberal stopovers.

\$45 to St. Paul and Minneapolis

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California Points

Special Convention Fares

San Francisco, going via Ogden or Salt Lake City, returning same route \$50.80
San Francisco, going via Ogden or Salt Lake City, returning via Portland and Huntington or vice versa \$61.50
Los Angeles, going via Salt Lake route, returning same route \$52.40
Los Angeles, going via Salt Lake route, returning via San Francisco and Ogden or Salt Lake City, or vice versa \$52.40
Los Angeles, going via Ogden or Salt Lake City and San Francisco, returning same route \$52.40
Los Angeles, going either of the above routes, returning via Portland and Huntington, or this route reversed \$71.50

Tickets on sale June 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22, final return limit August 31; August 31, September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, final return limit October 31.

Tickets on sale via Portland in one direction will also be on sale May 17, 18 and 19, final return limit July 15; May 29 and 30, June 5, 6, 7 and 8, final return limit July 27.

Tickets on sale via Portland, one direction, June 29 and 30, July 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, final return limit August 27.

Tickets on sale via Portland, one direction, July 13 and 14, final return limit September 11; October 14, 16 and 17, final return limit November 15.

Stopovers at all points going or returning.

SUMMER TOURIST FARES

San Francisco, going via Ogden or Salt Lake City, returning same route \$59.15
San Francisco, going via Ogden or Salt Lake City, returning via Portland and Huntington, or vice versa \$68.65
Los Angeles, going via Salt Lake route, returning same route \$61.15
Los Angeles, going via Salt Lake route, returning via San Francisco and Ogden or Salt Lake City, or vice versa \$61.15
Los Angeles, going via Ogden or Salt Lake and San Francisco, returning same route \$61.15
Los Angeles, going either of the above routes, returning via Portland and Huntington, or vice versa \$78.65

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Stopovers in either direction.

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To Nancotta \$34.25
To Portland \$34.25
To Seaside \$34.25
To Seattle \$34.25
To Tacoma \$34.25

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