WOOD'S CONQUEST OF YELLOW FEVER

Conquest of Tropical Plague Due to His Initiative—Father of Cuba's School System.

By JOHN G. HOLME,
Author of "The Life of Leonard Wood."

VI.

One of the many duties of Leonard Wood as Governor of Cuba was to draw up an electoral code whereby the Cubans might learn to exercise their rights as free citizens in selecting their representatives in the provisional government which functioned during the American occupation. An electoral law modeled largely on our Federal law with the Australian ballot system was promulgated.

The first election resulted in a great triumph for the radicals. Wood made no objections, but the Cubans soon did. They found out that the radicals, while remarkably plausible talkers and writers, were remarkably poor doers. At the second election only a few radicals were elected and at the third none. In this way Wood allowed the Cubans to work out their own political problems.

Wood's government collected something over $58,000,000 in public revenues from various sources, out of which all Cuba's running expenses and debts were paid, leaving enough to pay for great public improvements, and when on May 20, 1902, Governor Wood turned the island over to the new Cuban Republic there was more than half a million dollars in the public treasury on which to start national housekeeping.

Appalling Illiteracy.

As previously stated, Wood had opened the first public schools in the island while he was military governor of Santiago. Most of the improvements which he started there became models for the military governors of other cities and provinces to copy. The state of education on the island was appalling. Out of a total population in 1899 of 1,572,845 those possessing "superior education" numbered only a little over 19,000. The number of persons ten years old or over who could read or write was only 443,670. Wood addressed himself to the educational problem with his whole soul in the labor. Inside of six months he had increased the schools from 635 to 3,313. When he left the island more than 3,800 schools had been opened. Wood did not confine himself to primary schools. He established trade and industrial schools. The court and other public records were in a very confused state. Wood applied one of his characteristic common sense measures to correct this evil.

"What this country needs is stenographers and typewriters," he said. Forthwith he established a commercial school in Havana, from which the courts and government as well as private business offices were supplied with young men and women stenographers, typists and filing clerks, who could, and did, keep public and private records clear.

Governor Wood had the University of Havana moved from its old location to its present location on a hill commanding a view of the city and one of the beauty spots of the capital. The university was thoroughly remodeled and equipped with the best laboratory materials available in the United States and Europe.

When Wood took charge there were only 193 post offices in condition to render service in Cuba. When he left there were 366 post offices giving excellent service. He found the telegraph service poor and limited. With the help of the United States Signal Corps the old lines were repaired and new ones laid. He left Cuba with 77 stations and 3,518 miles of lines. Hundreds of miles of streets in the principal Cuban cities were paved and permanent highways were built in the rich agricultural districts.

Wood's Master Stroke.

We now come to the great master stroke of Wood's Cuban administration, the stamping out of yellow fever, the greatest menace of tropical America. Being a doctor, Wood had followed with keen interest the process of the fight against the disease. With few other progressive physicians he became convinced that yellow fever was a germ disease, and when Major Walter Reed with other distinguished physicans called on him for funds and authority to conduct experiments to establish the origin of the disease Wood granted both at once. The result was the conviction of a little mosquito, found to be the carrier of the yellow fever germ. Then came the wholesale execution of the insect, and the tragic story of yellow fever was over.

In eradicating this plague Wood and his assistants conferred a world wide blessing on humanity, while tropical America was made safe for the outside world. This triumph of medical science, moreover, paved the way for the world's greatest engineering feat. The United States could not have constructed the Panama Canal when it did if Wood had not taken the initiative in giving the Reed Medical Commission full authority and the necessary funds to perform the necessary experiments.

Yellow fever was stamped out with dramatic suddenness, and this triumph of medical science immortalized the names of Major Reed and Dr. Carlos J. Finlay, the Cuban doctor, who first advanced the theory that the germ was carried by a mosquito. Wood's campaign for sanitation in Cuba was of slower development.

(To be Continued.)

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The undersigned, as the attorney named in a deed of mortgage from Samuel Rhubottom and Mary Olevia Rhubottom his wife to Union Bridge Banking and Trust Company, of Union Bridge Carroll county, Maryland, dated September 16, 1915 and recorded among the Real Estate Mortgage Records of Carroll County in Liber O. D. G. No. 66 folie 502 &c. will offer at public sale on the premises situated on the Cronk Mill road and also a small lot in Winfield, in Franklin District, Carroll county, Maryland, on

SATURDAY, MAY 1st, 1920,

at 2:30 P. M., the following two lots of land and improvements, mentioned and described in said mortgage.

FIRST.

The home property of the said Samuel Rhubottom and wife, situated on the Cronk Mill road, about one-half mile from the Liberty road, containing

4A. 2 Roods and 15 Sq. Perches

of land more or less and improved by a log house, stable &c. Good spring of water.

SECOND.

A vacant lot situated in the village of Winfield, in the rear of the colored public school house, containing

72 Sq. Perches

of land more or less.

TERMS OF SALE—One-third of the purchase money to be paid in cash on the day of sale and the balance in six months, or all cash at the option of the purchaser.

JOSEPH D. BROOKS,
Attorney named in the Mortgage.
Jos. D. Brooks, Solicitor.
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