

CUBA ACTS TO END WIDESPREAD CRIME

Army Officer Takes Place of Havana Police Chief—Calls on Officers to Return.

RADICALS PLAN BIG STRIKE

Shooting of Reds Is Expected to Result in Increase of Labor Troubles in All Districts.

By J. D. PHILLIPS.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

HAVANA, Sept. 30.—Militarization of the Havana Police was begun by the government today as part of the policy suddenly adopted yesterday toward the maintenance of order by force of arms and toward the establishment of effective control throughout the republic.

Lieutenant Emilio Laurent, a member of the ill-fated Gibara expedition in the August, 1931, rebellion against President Machado, who had been Chief of Police of Havana since the student army government assumed power, was removed and Lieutenant Ulcencio Franca, the young but experienced commander of Principe Fortress, was appointed in his place. Assistant Chief of Police Eleuteria Vega and Candido Hernandez, Chief of the Judicial Police, also were removed.

Force to Be Reorganized.

Lieutenant Franca announced on taking office that a complete reorganization of the police would begin at once. He said the force had been much reduced by dismissals by President de Cespedes and by the present government, and announced a plan to fill vacancies with army men.

Lieutenant Franca said that robberies and other crimes, which have been committed apparently without hindrance, must cease. He notified policemen that he would stand behind them in suppressing crime and that if necessary they would be supported by the entire army.

All stations were cleared by civilians, particularly students who have been supervising police activities. Lieutenant Franca issued a call for the return to duty of all police lieutenants and captains of the Machado régime against whom no charges were pending.

The new chief said the police would begin disarming all civilians whether or not they were adherents of the government. He warned the students that no further searches of cars or homes by them would be tolerated.

Two Versions of New Policy.

Two versions of the sudden change in policy by the Grau government were circulated. Some said yesterday's shootings by soldiers during riots in which eight were killed and twenty-seven wounded indicated communism would be combated energetically in a move by the government to win United States recognition. Others believed the soldiers had taken matters into their own hands and that a military dictatorship was not unlikely in the near future.

Antonio Puerta, secretary of the Communist committee in charge of the rites for Julio Antonio Mella, which provoked the riots yesterday, accused government troops of having fired the first shots. He said the Communists had received authority from President Grau for the burial of Mella's ashes in Colon Cemetery, to which their procession was heading when it was unexpectedly attacked.

President Grau said this morning that snipers had wounded three soldiers and one Captain before the troops opened fire. He said the government was justified in its strong stand against the Communists.

Although Havana still is patrolled by the army and is outwardly quiet, there was much agitation in labor circles. Plans for a nation-wide strike are said to be in progress. The Communists are particularly bitter, pointing out that the present government, which had apparently sympathized with the workers' struggle for better conditions and had tacitly supported communistic and anti-American activities, had suddenly ordered soldiers to fire on demonstrators. Observers expect a series of labor conflicts.

Merchants and industrialists, while lamenting yesterday's events, began to hope for the restoration of a measure of control over the laboring class, which they contend has imposed impossible demands by intimidation and acts of violence.

Antilla Workers Angered.

Laborers in Antilla, Oriente Province, where the dock workers and railway employes are now demanding that the recently agreed-on wage increase be made retroactive for two years, have been much agitated over the news from Havana concerning yesterday's riot. A meeting was held by radical workers last night to discuss the reports that the Communist demonstration had been broken up by soldiers.

The sergeant in charge of the military forces has been endeavoring to maintain order but has been greatly handicapped by the limited number of soldiers at his command. Railway workers gathered in the station today demanding passes to go to Camaguey, where the head office of the railway company is located, in order to press their demands.

Edward Koch, American manager of a sugar mill near Santiago, and his family of four are being held prisoners in their home by

laborers there. An American who visited the mill yesterday stated before detaining that he was forced to obtain a permit from a former Jamaican Negro who called himself "Corporal of the Red Guard."

Several trucks dispatched from Santiago to the coffee district to pick up coffee returned empty, the drivers reporting that individuals who said they were part of the Red Guard refused to permit loading.

Matanzas labor leaders have demanded the release of all workers held in jail. Workers now operating the Yumuri match factory are going through the business districts confiscating all stocks of matches.

Soldiers this afternoon detained eight former officers and four civilians in the city of Pinar del Rio, at the western end of the island. They were accused of attempting to foment a counter revolution. Among the civilians was Dr. Leon Cuervo Rubio, cousin of Dr. Rubio of Havana, a prominent oppositionist during the Machado régime.

Two rebels were captured today at Sancti Spiritus, in Santa Clara Province, when a detachment of troops clashed with a well-armed band. There were no casualties.