

ENGLISH SECTION

THE EDITOR - SIMON VEGA. COLON AGENT - JOHN COPELAND.

CHIEF OF THE CONTRABAND PREVENTION BUREAU QUILTS OWING TO GOVT'S. CHARGES

Taking Exception To Statements Made By the Government in Its Reply To the Association of Commerce, V. M. Alvarado Leaves Post—Memorandum Insisting on Original Requests and Refuting All Points of Executive's Resolution May Be Completed Today

The controversy between the government and the Panama Association of Commerce over tax reduction might cause a disruption of the contraband prevention service operating under the auspices of the Association of Commerce, as a result of the resignation of Victor Manuel Alvarado, for many years head of the service.

Taking exception to the "very grave charges" made in the government's reply rejecting the requests of the Association for a reduction of the import tax on necessities of life and the payment of tax on articles introduced by Canal Zone employees living within territory under jurisdiction of the Panama authorities, Mr. Alvarado yesterday addressed a letter to Mauricio Valencia, president of the committee of vigilance against contrabands, resigning from the post of Inspector General of contrabands.

Mr. Alvarado abandoned his position simultaneously with the presentation of his resignation, leaving Inspector Luis A. Mata in charge of the office.

Interviewed last night Don Carlos Eleita, Vice-President of the Association of Commerce, reiterated that this institution will not only insist in its original requests to the Government, but indicated that in a reply which may be adopted today, they will refute all the points contained in the government's refusal. He indicated that the members of the Association were greatly dissatisfied with the reply of the Sec. of Treasury to their lengthy memorandum, not because of the fact that their requests were flatly turned down, but because the reasons adduced are trivial and because the Chamber of Commerce was not shown the consideration that is due such an important organization.

The Association's second memorandum may be completed today and, if so, a meeting will be held this afternoon by the board of directors of the organization to obtain its approval before the document is presented.

The text of the letter of V. M. Alvarado resigning his post is as follows:

"Based on the very grave charges formulated by the Executive Power in its Resolution No. 70, dated the 24th, of the present month, against the vigilance service of contrabands from commissaries, under my direction, I consider it my unavoidable duty to submit, as in effect I hereby

submit, my irrevocable resignation from the post of Inspector General of Contrabands, which I have filled since January, 1920.

From its dateline to the two signatures which subscribe it, said Resolution does nothing but blame the service of vigilance against commissary contrabands for the damages suffered by local commerce through the contrabands introduced from the Canal Zone.

The Executive, after declaring, among other things, that "What is desired to prove—and it is something quite different—is that many, taking advantage of the impunity offered them by the lack of effective vigilance, acquire articles at a price lower than that paid by the general public," adds that "This complaint, as has already been stated, has an effective remedy, and that remedy is in the hands of the Association of Commerce."

The remedy indicated in a veiled manner by the Executive cannot be any other but my dismissal and I hurry to leave the way open for local commerce to select a competent person who may save the situation referred to in the Resolution.

As you will readily understand, I must not remain another minute in this position since I cannot let charges of such a nature, which are subscribed to by no other than the President of the Republic and his Secretary of Treasury, pass by unheeded.

On the other hand, I only aspire to live in peace with God and with my conscience; the rest does not matter. Regarding the position I have occupied for such a long time, I must declare that upon abandoning it I carry the personal satisfaction of having devoted all my time, all my energies and the limited resources of my humble intelligence to the defense of the interests of commerce.

If, at the end of the journey, I only receive deceptions and a considerable number of enemies, I am satisfied as that is only human.

I have the honor of informing you that today I have left this position and have left the office in charge of Luis Mata A., a competent and honest employe with long experience in the service.

Permit me to thank you, and through you all the members of the Commission and of the Association of Commerce, for the confidence showed me at all times."

ROTARY CONGRESS PLAN CREATES ENTHUSIASM

Officials Express Great Interest in Project of An International Rotary Conference Here Next March

After a week during which no luncheon was held by local Rotarians, there was a full attendance at yesterday's session in the Hotel Central.

Thomas Jacome presided. Dr. Luis Sapiro, back from a trip to the United States and Europe, was cordially greeted by his fellow Rotarians, and spoke entertainingly of Rotarian activities in other localities.

Two questions of importance came up during the meeting: first a statement of what has been accomplished in arranging the many details incidental to "Boys' Week," which starts November 20; and secondly, the matter of an International Rotary Conference to be held in this city next March.

Ernesto Arosemena stated that while much has been done in the way of providing entertainment for their youthful and exuberant guests during Boys' Week, there still remains much to be arranged, particularly in connection with Athletics Day, which falls on Thanksgiving.

Otto Lindo read a number of letters and cables from International Rotary officials, who express a great enthusiasm for the project of an International Conference to be held here. It is the idea of these officials that the Rotary Clubs of Panama, in connection with those of Guatemala, Salvador and several Clubs in South America, act as hosts here for the visiting Rotarians from other parts who will pass this way in March. Mr. Lindo states that a Rotarian cruise will positively come to Panama in that month, whether or not the mat-

ter of a Conference can be arranged.

John F. Martin, Charge d'Affaires of the United States, was in attendance at the meeting and was introduced to the Rotarians by W. Y. Boyd. He spoke very briefly, after the introduction, warmly expressing his appreciation of the kindness with which he has been received in Panama.

Another visitor was Jorge Diaz Solazar, Minister of Foreign Relations in Lima, Peru.

Mr. Solazar is passing through on his way to Seville, Spain, to arrange for the Peruvian exhibition at the Seville Exposition to be held next October. He states that Peru will spend something like 200,000 pounds in making a suitable display in Seville of Peruvian products and industries. He is leaving for Spain at this early date in order to look after the construction of a pavilion for the exhibit from Peru.

Other visitors were Rufus Hardy, late of Atlanta, Georgia, and now connected with the Star and Herald, and Guillermo Arguedas, who was introduced by M. Cardozo, Jr.

The membership of the local Club was increased by one, when Horacio Sosa became a member in good stand. S. Paul Vecker attending to the necessary rites and ceremonies.

Music was furnished by the Hotel Central orchestra. Their playing of the Chilean Rotarian Hymn was especially enjoyable.


Rotarian Herb Halliday sent regrets that a business trip to Colon prevented his attending yesterday's meeting.

S. Paul Vecker spoke briefly concerning the Red Cross drive to obtain funds for the needy during the coming holidays, and urged all Rotarians to see that the personnel of the various business concerns of the city contribute something, even though the amount might be small.


A full attendance is requested for next Thursday's luncheon, several matters of importance, when action must be taken upon

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