

# Cuba and Sugar

By RALPH B. ROBERTS, 34journ

**A**LTHOUGH recent events in Cuba have led many to believe that the natives in that hot-bed of revolution are incapable of governing themselves, such is not the case, according to Rolfe Engleman, '21eng, who recently returned from the island republic where he has been a geologist for an American oil company for the past two years.

"The average Cuban is little different from the average American," said Engleman, pointing out that their commercial life, temperament and pastimes are similar to ours.

"Ben Bernie, Vincent Lopez and other well-known radio stars are as popular in Cuba as they are in the United States and there are few places where the world series baseball games were followed more closely than on the island."

Blame for the revolutionary undercurrent in Cuba was placed by Engleman upon interference of the United States government and the American capitalists with vast sugar holdings in the island.

"Cuba would be better off either entirely dependent upon the United States or entirely independent of her," he said in condemning the Platt amendment which he termed indefensible."

"I know of no school anywhere in the United States where better results have been attained with an R. O. T. C. unit," Major-General Johnson Hagood, fourth ranking military general in the country and commander of the eighth corps area, described the Sooner unit when he visited the campus in February. Here is the group that conducted General Hagood's tour of the campus. They are, front row, Art Pansze, cadet colonel, Ft. Smith, Arkansas; Addie Lee Davis, honorary cadet colonel, McAlester; President W. B. Bizzell; General Hagood; Major Harry J. Malony, commandant of the unit; back row, Lieutenant Johnson Hagood, junior, aide to the general; John Oldfield, Oklahoma City, cadet colonel; and Earl Sneed, Tulsa, cadet colonel.

A unique situation was encountered by Engleman in obtaining news of Cuban governmental affairs. Although he was in the republic he had to depend upon outside sources, so complete was the control of the Machado regime over the Cuban press.

"Many American publications were banned from the country by Machado and we had to rely on an occasional *Time* or *Current History* which slipped by the governmental censor through the mails."

With the gag on the Cuban press everything seemed calm on the surface and an uninformed tourist could pass through the country without knowing anything out of the ordinary was taking place, Engleman said.

The most disastrous part of the Cuban situation in Engleman's opinion, was the closing of the National University at Havana three years ago and the virtual disruption of Cuba's educational system.

This caused many of the wealthy students to come to the United States and threw the poorer ones out upon the depression-ridden commercial world of the island. Many of them took an active part in the overthrow of the Machado regime. The ABC, secret organization which agi-

tated against the government and had many fights with Machado's notorious "secret police," was composed largely of students.

Dismissed faculty members of the National University also played an important part in the revolution, Engleman pointed out. "Carlos DeLatorre, internationally known authority on paleontology, was president of the revolutionary junta and Grau San Martin, temporary president of the republic, was a member of the Cuban university faculty."

Since his graduation from the University, Engleman has spent most of his time as geologist in the Latin American countries.

While an undergraduate here he took a prominent part in student activities. He was a member of "Pick and Hammer" and Sigma Gamma Epsilon, geological fraternities; was associate editor of the *Oklahoma Daily* in the school year of 1920-21 and was a member of Sigma Delta Chi, professional journalism fraternity. He is an Alpha Tau Omega.

▲ ▲ ▲

Florence Elizabeth Whitelock, '32as, formerly of Norman, is working on the *Huntington* (Indiana) *Leader*.

Elizabeth Beldsoe, '32M.A., accepted a position recently as history and social sciences teacher at Lawton high school.

Walter Lampton, '32bus, is employed by the Ledbetter Insurance company with offices at 1103 Colcord building, Oklahoma City.

G. T. Watts, former Sooner polo star, is practicing law at Roswell, New Mexico.

Edgar Baxter, '33eng, is employed as a gas engineer in the Oklahoma City oil field. He is making his home in Norman.

Daisy Belle Dunn, '33as, a beauty queen on the campus last year, is working for the Ozmun Wholesale company in Lawton. She is a member of the popular young set in Lawton.

