

PROBLEM-BASED LEARNING
IN LANGUAGE ARTS/SOCIAL STUDIES

Fit to Print

A Problem about Yellow Journalism
and the Road to War with Spain

Resource Book

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Unionville, New York

Problem Engagement: Articles

Dr. Ruiz Is Dead

The New York Times Article

LEE AND THE RUIZ CASE

Denial of the Rumor that Consul General at Havana Has Threatened to Send in His Resignation

THE DEPARTMENT DISTURBED.

Secretary Olney Not Disposed to Act upon Sensational Newspaper Reports—Doubt that Dr. Ruiz Was a Citizen of the United States at the Time of His Death.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. — Consul General Lee appears to have denied effectually the sensational reports about his alleged demand for a warship at Havana and his intention to resign if the Government should not support him in his efforts to protect American citizens, but until his denial was published, the State Department was beset by inquirers who desired to learn what response Secretary Olney would make to Lee's reported demand for extreme action to compel reparation for the death of Dr. Ruiz and the other report that he had resigned because of the refusal of the Administration to fully support him.

Secretary Olney had heard all these reports with natural vexation, and had adopted the plan of disregarding them as reports that would be discredited soon, and would not require elaborate denial to get rid of them. It appeared altogether improbable that Gen. Lee had made the threats ascribed to him. He had reported the arrest of Dr. Ruiz. He had made inquiries concerning Ruiz's citizenship, which was not so clearly established as to be beyond dispute, and apparently had lost sight of him until he learned of his death Feb. 13.

Facts in the Ruiz Case.

Guanabacoa, where Dr. Ruiz was imprisoned, is only three miles from Havana, just across the harbor, and it is assumed that if the condition of the prisoner was one of great danger the Cuban sympathizers who abound in Havana and the neighborhood would have alarmed the Consul General and urged him to recommend vigorous measures for his relief while he was alive.

To demand that ships of war be sent to Havana now to enforce reparation for injuries to Dr. Ruiz strikes the Secretary of State as likely to prove a rather hard and clumsy way of pressing a demand for

reparation that this country undoubtedly will assert and maintain if it shall be proved that Dr. Ruiz was a citizen of the United States.

It is impossible to escape the impression that the department is disturbed about some of the reports attributing to Consul General Lee a feeling of dissatisfaction because the Administration has not been more urgent in pushing its demands upon Spain to treat American citizens with respect. While he was here on leave, Gen. Lee was credited with having discussed the situation in Cuba with a strong leaning for the insurgents, and with having suggested a course of action much more radical than that to which the Administration has adhered. It is understood he has talked in a similar vein since his return to Havana.

The State Department does not find, by looking back over the events of the year, that it would have been justified if it had followed the advice of those who would have sent ships to Havana to compel prompt settlement of half a dozen cases that have been alluded to as sufficiently aggravated to call for resentment involving a resort to arms.

Secretary Olney is inclined to believe that many of the prisoners now held by Spain, and who claim to be citizens of the United States, are more fortunate in being detained in prison than they might be if brought to trial. The delay in trying some cases is attributed to a desire to avert American excitement and hostility to Spain.

No Ill Advised Action to be Taken.

Although the cases as reported have a bad look for the prisoners, Secretary Olney will not make any attempt to keep pace with that journalism that contrives for publication to-day statements of alleged facts that almost invariably are contradicted tomorrow, and he does not think it necessary to say seriously that an Administration that would attempt to shape its policy to meet the demands provoked by that sort of journalistic "enterprise" would bring itself speedily into contempt, and possibly involve the country in an expensive, bloody, and criminally useless war.

Until the details about the imprisonment and death of Dr. Ruiz are better understood, the State Department will not think of sending warships to Havana to provoke, on account of that case, a war with Spain.

AMERICAN SLAIN IN SPANISH JAIL

General Lee Indignant and Demands Full
Investigation of Ricardo Ruiz's Death.

Strong Evidence to Show That the Hapless Man Was
Murdered by Spanish Policeman in His Cell

By George Eugene Bryson.

(Copyright, 1897, by W. R. Hearst)

Havana, Feb. 18, via Key West, Feb. 19. – The story of another outrage reached Counsel-General Lee this morning from Guanabacoa. Ricardo Ruiz, the American dentist, arrested by the notorious military commandant, Fondesviela, a fortnight ago, is dead. His body was found this morning in the foul, gloomy little cell where he had been kept thirteen days. He had not been permitted to communicate with his family or counsel. Prisoners confined in adjoining cells were released at noon, and managed, through others, to convey the news to the Consulate.

No advice of his death has been officially received by General Lee from the Spanish authorities.

Did Police Kill Him?

During the night the prisoner was visited by policemen accompanied by an officer. They stopped in front of Ruiz's cell. High words were shortly heard; then followed a struggle, and a heavy body was heard to fall upon the floor.

Consul-General Lee is indignant and surprised at the Government's failure to

notify him of the prisoner's death. He visited the palace this afternoon and saw Acting Governor-General Ahumada and insisted on an investigation. He demanded that Fondesviela be instructed to deliver up the body.

General Lee will go to Guanabacoa, accompanied by Dr. Burgess and an interpreter.

Spaniards here are circulating the story that Ruiz was half-crazed by solitary confinement and committed suicide.

General Lee's repeated communications to the palace since Ruiz's first detention, requesting a statement of the charges against him, have been either ignored or evasively answered. I understand that Ruiz was accused of being a rebel sympathizer, and charged with complicity in Aranguren's attack on the Guanabacoa train when the Spanish officers were seized.

The story of the death of the Cuban chief, Raoul Arango, has not been confirmed.

The New York Times

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New York Journal

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General Lee Indignant.

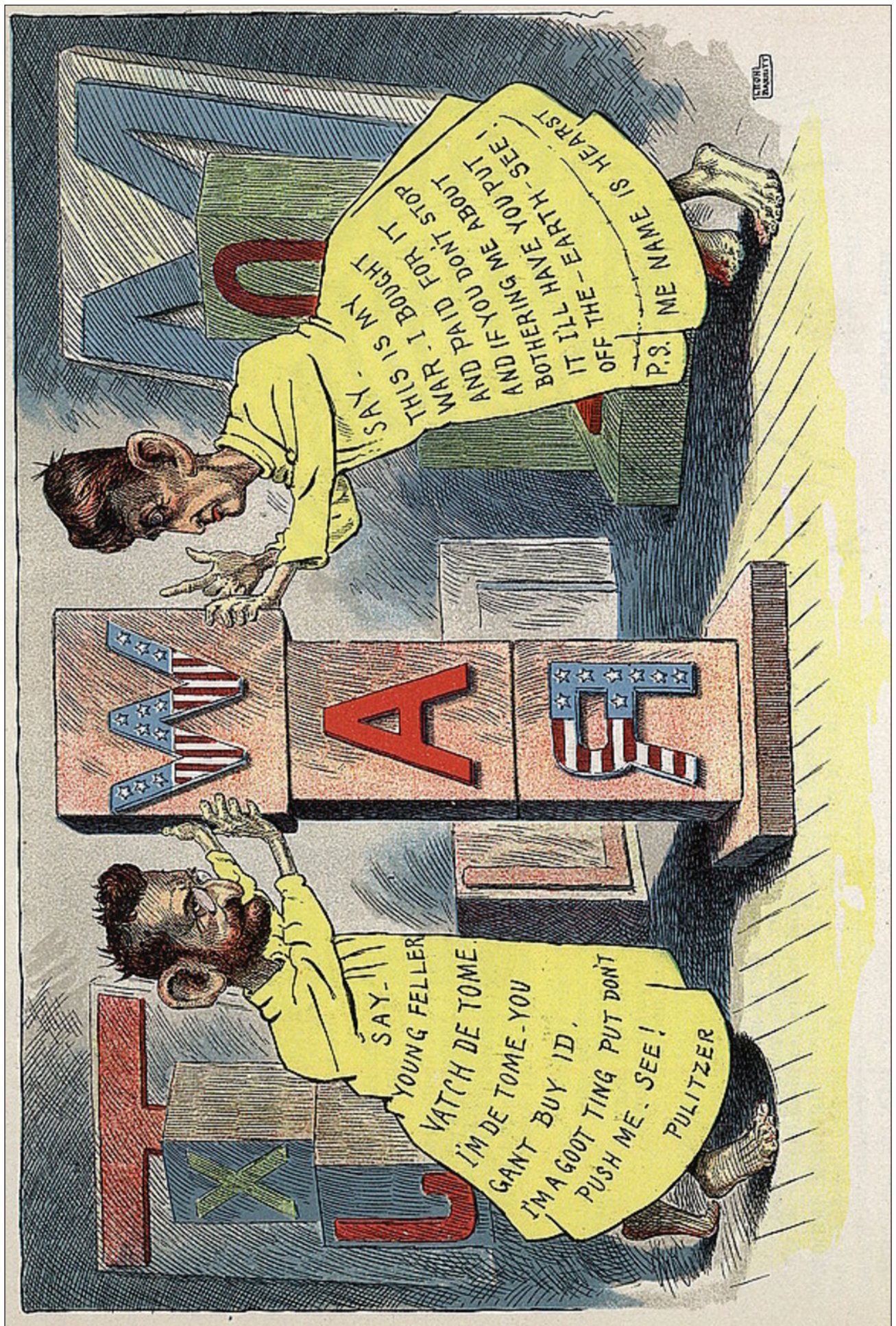
Key West, Fla., Feb. 19.—Passenger

Problem Engagement: Cartoons for Differentiation

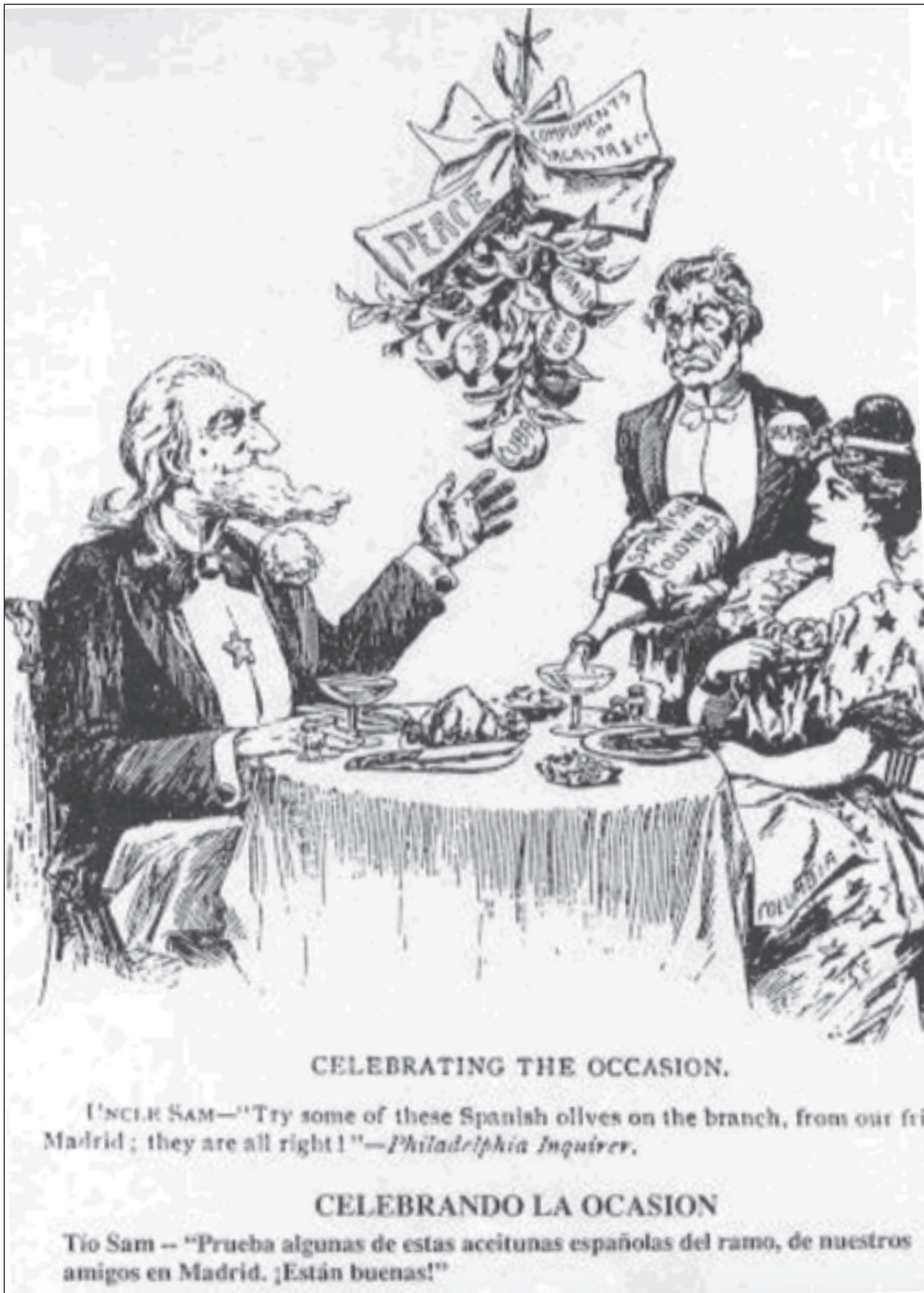
Dr. Ruiz Is Dead



Note: One flag says "Insurgents," and the other says "Autonomists."







The olives say "Cuba," "Manila," and "Puerto Rico." The ribbon says "Peace, Compliments of Sagasta." The wine bottle says "Spanish Colonies." The napkin says "Columbia." The waiter's button says "Cuban." (?)