

Publication of Decree Providing for Election of Deputies from Cuba.

Dissatisfaction of the Spaniards in Cuba Over Election of the King—The Prince of Asturias the Favorite—News from the Insurgent Lines—Destruction of Estates—Billiards in Havana—Italian Opera.

HAVANA, Nov. 26, 1870.

The official decree from the Minister of the Ultramar, providing for the election of deputies to the constituent Cortes, appeared in the official gazette of Havana under date of the 23d inst. In the preamble of General De Rodas, preceding the publication, he highly compliments the self-sacrificing spirit of the loyal Spaniards in this island and states that the authorities will insure the most ample liberty in the exercise of the right of suffrage. By the decree the province of Cuba is called upon to elect eighteen deputies, and that of Porto Rico eleven. For this purpose the islands are respectively divided into electoral districts. As a base for the formation of these districts is adopted the division now existing for the financial administration of the provinces, viz.:—For Cuba—First, Havana and Pinar del Rio; second, Matanzas, Villa Clara and Trinidad; third, Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba. For Porto Rico—First, the Capital, Naguabo and Guayama; second, Aguadillo and Arecibo; third, Mayaguez and Ponce. These are divided into smaller districts in proportion to the number of ayuntamientos, and these into sections.

The following table shows the population of the various districts and the proportionate number of deputies:—

Electoral Districts.	Free Population from census 1862.	No. of Deputies.
1—Havana.....	288,032	7
Pinar del Rio.....	74,099	
2—Matanzas.....	121,849	6
Villa Clara.....	147,676	
Trinidad.....	61,229	
3—Puerto Principe.....	167,934	5
Santiago de Cuba.....	159,035	
Total.....	955,895	19

The decree requires of the elector that he must be a Spaniard, in the full enjoyment of all his rights, and twenty-five years of age; that he pay taxes to the amount of at least twenty-five dollars. Foreigners naturalized or domiciled in the island, who have held municipal offices or who have been attached to the public service in any way, are Spaniards.

Electors can only exercise this franchise in the district where they reside. Various articles are taken up in explaining the rights of property and the interests therein necessary to constitute an elector under the decree.

Those are declared not electors who are engaged in the insurrection; those who by sentence are deprived of their political rights; those who are imprisoned under criminal process; those who are undergoing punishment for criminal offences; those who from mental disqualification are incapable of exercising the franchise intelligently; those who have failed in business or suspended payment; debtors to the public Treasury, and those who have served or are serving out sentence for being engaged in the slave trade.

All electors are eligible to the position of deputy, except those who are holding such commission under government in the electoral district as gives them commands. This does not apply to judges. Very extensive explanations are entered into in reference to holding the elective and the rights and qualifications of electors, which are of no general interest. The decree authorizes the Captains General to suspend the election within their respective jurisdictions when the exigencies of public order render it necessary.

Following the decree in the *Gazette* appears a circular of the Captain General De Rodas to the various Governors and Lieutenant Governors, requiring them to fully carry out the provisions of the laws, while authorizing them to suspend the elections in those localities which are in a state of insurrection and where it is impossible to communicate at once with his Excellency. Whether any election will really take place here, or whether, as with the Emancipation law, the decree will fall stillborn remains to be demonstrated.

From present appearances it is well that the election thus provided for takes place after the election of a King; for, had the Deputies from the island been present in the Cortes and represented their constituents, Prim would have had eighteen additional votes to overcome before electing his candidate. The feeling here in reference to the Italian race has developed itself very soon and long before the time of official rejoicing was ended. It is one of unmitigated dissatisfaction, not to say disgust. The three days of jubilee decreed by the Captain General ended last evening, and during them all not one particle of enthusiasm nor even satisfaction was manifested. On the contrary, the feeling and expression of discontent are everywhere observed, and the Duke of Aosta is spoken of in the most contemptuous manner. As has been stated in previous despatches, the Spaniards resident in this island are legitimists, and while for many reasons they do not desire the restoration of Isabella II., they are almost to a man supporters of the Prince of Asturias, and they regard his ultimate accession to the throne as certain. Bigoted Spaniards, they desire to be ruled only by a Spaniard. And again they say the only safety for kings is in the principle of legitimacy. To elect a king is absurd, since kings and elections are inconsistent with each other. The power to do necessarily involves the power to undo, and the people having, either directly or through their representatives, elected a king, realize their right to unseat him, and generally exercise it. We want, say they, the heir of all our kings, under whom Spain was so great and glorious, a prince associated with all of our traditions. Meanwhile rumors of outbreaks and revolutions in Spain are rife. Among them is one to the effect that Lersundi with 50,000 men is at or near Madrid and has proclaimed the Prince of Asturias. Herein "the wish is father to the thought," no doubt, for Lersundi, a supporter of the house of Bourbon, is so popular here that the Spaniards would follow his standard wherever raised.

In honor of the accession of the new king, and by order of the Captain General, a grand parade of volunteers will take place to-morrow (Sunday).

Through a reliable source a few details of interest from inside the insurgent lines are furnished us. The story of the attempted escape of Cornelio Porro from the island grew out of the fact that this chief prevented the departure of Manuel and Serapio Artega, Francisco Lucaras, a literary man who writes under the *nom de plume* of "Fray Carrosa," Francisco Quesada and others, fifteen in all. Ignacio Agramonte has been placed under arrest by Cespedes for insubordination. The capture and shooting of Fortun is confirmed. He was at the time under close arrest by the insurgent authorities, and guarded by sixteen negroes. These were surprised, captured and, with their prisoner, were all shot down. Fortun's offence, for which he was under arrest by the Cubans, was an attempt to communicate with the Spaniards, and it is undoubted that he would have been shot had he not been captured. Cornelio Porro was at one time under arrest on suspicion of being implicated with Fortun; but investigation showed his innocence, and he was released and restored to command. Everything is represented as going on prosperously with the insurgent forces; but there is much suffering among families, many of which are obliged to present themselves.

As anticipated, the report of the capture and shooting of "Bembeta" and Cavada turns out to be false.

From Santiago de Cuba, the 17th, we learn that the rains have been very abundant and have favored the growth of the cane. The destruction of estates by the insurgents has been great, and will reduce the crop considerably below the average, though the favorable condition of the weather will do something toward neutralizing this.

M. Pierre Carme, the celebrated French billiardist, is here, and is astonishing the Habaneros by splendid playing. On the evening of the 23d he played a match for \$500 with Señor Sanchez, a well known amateur of this city, 400 carroms, the French three ball game, M. Carme giving his opponent 200 in the game. The former won in two hours, making runs of 20, 25, 28, 32, 48 and others nearly equal several times. He has also played with other amateurs, in our game, making 103 carroms. M. Carme leaves to-day in the liberty for New Orleans.

Havana is about to be favored with Italian opera. The company is about sailing from France, and will appear at the new theatre of Alben, called after General Lersundi, some time in December.