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MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
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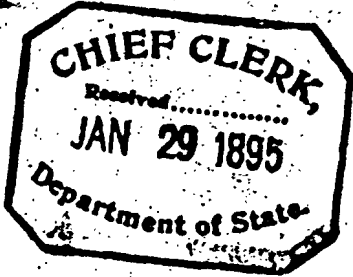
14425

Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C.,

January 28, 1895.



*W. S. ...
File July 12/95*

CLIMATIC BUREAU.
FEB 11 1895

The Honorable :

The Secretary of State.

Sir:

Replying to your letter of the 26th instant, transmitting translation of a note under date of the 22nd instant from the Spanish Minister at this Capitol, calling attention to an alleged violation of our neutrality laws, I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of correspondence relating to the subject on file in this Department.

Respectfully yours,

[Handwritten Signature]

Acting Secretary.

(Enclosures)

Copy.

New York, January 10, 1895.

To the Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I have very good grounds for believing that the yachts Lagonda & Amadis are on a filibustering expedition. They both left New York January 4th, and are to stop at either Savannah or Fernandina, presumably for arms and ammunition. One of them carries a number of fishermen's dories and the only use they can be put to is for landing a large number of men on the coast of whatever country the expedition is intended for. Again both yachts have a supply of coal on board for a long voyage and their movements and arrangements have been made with the greatest secrecy. They were both chartered by the one man, so it is no pleasure trip. I expect to get more information in a day or two and will give it to you, and in the meantime would respectfully ask that their movements be carefully watched and I be protected in the proportion of the award in case of confiscation which is allowed by our Government in such cases.

I would also respectfully ask that my name may be kept secret for my own protection.

Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

James Batewell,

38 Broome Street,

New York City, N. Y.

P. S.

Have just got word that the yacht Lagonda has arrived at Fernan-

lina.

Respectfully,

James Batewell.

Copy.

TELEGRAM.

Fernandina, Fla., Jan. 11, 1895.

To Hon. Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Steam Yacht Lagonda arrived from New York bound to some port in
South America under suspicious circumstances having twenty cases
merchandise on board which the agent refuses to allow examined.

Please wire instructions.

George L. Baltzell,

Collector of Customs.

Copy.

New York, January 11, 1895.

To the Honorable

The Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please note enclosed cut from the New York World of to-day, confirming my information to you under date of January 10, 1895. I would respectfully again ask that my claim for reward be recognized if the yachts or arms and ammunition or other property of the expedition be confiscated.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,
James Batewell,

38 Broome Street,
New York City.

Copy.

14425^N.
Treasury Department,

T. B. S.

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 11, 1895.

TELEGRAM.

The Secretary of State:

The following telegram has just been received from the Collector of Customs at Fernandina:

"Steam yacht 'Lagonda' arrived from New York bound to some port in South America under suspicious circumstances having twenty cases of merchandise on board which the agent refuses to allow examined. Please wire instructions."

Answer is delayed to await any suggestion you may think proper to make.

(Signed) S. Wike,

Assistant Secretary.
E. T. C.

Charge Department.

copy.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
(TELEGRAM.)

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12, 1895.

From (Dept. State.

To Hon. Scott Wike.

Answering telegram yesterday about yacht Lagonda this Department has received no information tending to throw light on the nature of the cargo.

W. Q. Gresham.

14425N.
Treasury Department,

Copy.

T. B. S.

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 12, 1895.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

Fernandina, Florida.

Case yacht "Lagonda" stated to have on board suspicious cargo,
reported to Secretary State, and Department is awaiting reply.

(Signed) S. Wike,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

Charge Department.

Copy.

TELEGRAM.

Fernandina, Fla., Jan. 12, 1895.

To Hon. Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

William L. Moore owner of yacht Lagonda wires me to detain vessel. Quotes sections fifty-two eighty-nine and ninety revised statutes. He says charter is violated and cancelled. Shall I do so?

G. L. Baitzell,

Collector.

14425^N
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 12, 1895.

Copy.

T. B. S.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

Fernandina, Fla.

If case yacht "Lagonda", covered by Article one-thirty-six, regulations eighteen-ninety-two, take action accordingly. Report fully and immediately what further suspicious circumstances attach to the vessel other than that agent refuses to allow inspection.

(Signed) S. Wike,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

Charge Department.

14425N.
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C.,

January 12, 1895.

Copy.

T. B. S.

Collector of Customs,

Fernandina, Fla.

Sir:

In reply to your telegram dated yesterday, the following message,

signed by myself, was sent you to-day, viz:

"If case yacht 'Lagonda', covered by Article one-thirty-six, regulations eighteen-ninety-two, take action accordingly. Report fully and immediately what further suspicious circumstances attach to the vessel other than that agent refuses to allow inspection."

The Secretary of State informs the Department under this date that his Department has no information tending to throw light on the nature of the cargo.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) S. Wike,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

Copy.

T. B. S.

14425^{N.}
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 12, 1895.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

New York, N. Y.

Please report regarding yachts "Lagonda" and "Amadis" stated to have cleared from your port about fourth instant, with suspicious cargo. "Lagonda" is at Fernandina.

(Signed)

S. Wike,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

Charge Department.

Copy.

TELEGRAM.

Fernandina, Fla., Jan 12, 1895.

To Hon. Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

I have taken charge of yacht Lagonda; examined cases aboard and found they contained canteens, knapsacks and belts which appear to be second hand. Have just found in river thrown overboard from yacht two cases which contain cutlasses and knapsacks. Private telegrams indicate the yacht has or is about to engage in some kind of suspicious traffic. Please advise next step.

G. L. Baltzell,

Collector.

copy.

TELEGRAM.

Fernandina, Fla., Jan. 13, 1895.

To the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Capt. of yacht Lagonda voluntarily informs me that he threw overboard several cases containing guns and cartridges before inspector arrived aboard. I have telegraphed district attorney to be here tomorrow. Norwegian fruit steamer Baracoa arrived here this morning consigned to same agent as Lagonda and is reported to be suspicious. I made careful examination of this steamer but found nothing suspicious. Will watch her closely.

G. L. Baltzell,

Collector.

14425N.
Treasury Department,

Copy.

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C.,

January 14, 1895.

The Honorable

The Attorney General,

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith, copies of papers relating to the yacht "Lagonda", stated to have on board at Fernandina, Florida, certain munitions of war. The Collector of Customs at Fernandina, has been instructed by telegraph to report the case to the U. S. Attorney and if you perceive no objection I will thank you to instruct him to investigate and report upon the matter with a view to such action on his part as the circumstances may demand.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

W.

(3 enclosures.)

Copy.

Office of
Special Agent Treasury Department,

Savannah, Ga., January 14, 1895.

Hon. John G. Carlisle,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Department telegram of the 12th instant, in regard steam yachts "Lagonda" and "Amadis", was received on Saturday evening, during my absence, and as per general instructions, was opened by Special Employee Haralson. Mr. Haralson immediately notified the Collector of Customs of the contents of the telegram, also Capt. Rodgers, of the Rev. Cutter "Boutwell", with the request that the instructions of the Department be complied with.

From an account published in "The Morning News", of the 13th instant, it appears the "Lagonda" has been seized by the Collector at Fernandina.

How the reporter could have secured information as to Department's instructions, in this matter, I am at a loss to know, as Mr. Haralson only gave the information to the Collector, Capt. Rodgers,

and to Capt. Laird, the boarding officer, on duty at the Barge Office, and with the request, to each to keep the matter quiet.

A constant watch has been kept at this port, for the "Amadis", but so far, she has not been sighted.

Any further developments in this matter, coming to my attention, will be reported promptly to the Department.

Very respectfully,

C. A. Macatee,

Special Agent.

One enclosure.

14425^N.
Treasury Department,

Copy:

Office of the Secretary.

Washington, D. C., January 14, 1895.

TELEGRAM.

The Honorable

The Secretary of State.

This Department is in receipt of the following telegram
from the Collector of Customs at Fernandina, Fla.:

"I have taken charge of yacht 'Lagonda', examined cases aboard
and found they contained canteens, knapsacks and belts which appear
to be second hand. Have just found in river thrown overboard from
yacht two cases which contain cutlasses and knapsacks. Private tel-
egrams indicate the yacht has or is about to engage in some kind of
suspicious traffic. Please advise next step."

Please state whether you desire that the vessel be seized or
longer detained.

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C. W.

Copy.

14425^{N.}
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 14, 1895.

TELEGRAM.

Collector of Customs,

Fernandina, Fla.

Report cases yachts "Lagonda" etc. to U. S. Attorney.

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C. W.

Charge Department.

14425N.
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Copy.

Washington, D. C.,

January 14, 1895.

Collector of Customs,
Fernandina, Fla.

Sir:

In reply to your telegram of this date, the following message signed by myself was sent you to-day, viz:

"Report cases yachts 'Lagonda' etc., to U. S. Attorney."

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

W.

copy.

TELEGRAM.

Fernand~~ina~~, Fla., Jan. 14, 1895

to Hon. Secretary of the Treasury-

Washington, D. C.

I have just seized about one hundred and seventy stand of arms and a lot of Colt's revolvers cartridges and other supplies which I found in warehouse of N. B. Borden, agent for yacht Lagonda and Nor. S. S. Baracoa. A portion of this consignment was on board yacht Lagonda. The supposition is that the goods in warehouse are intended for Nor. S. S. Baracoa. I am waiting advices from the Department as to what I shall do about the Baracoa.

Geo. L. Baltzell,

Collector of Customs.

Copy.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

(TELEGRAM.)

Washington, D. C., 14 Jan., 1895.

From Dept. State.

To Hon. C. S. Hamlin.

This Department is without information that would justify it in asking that the yacht Lagonda be longer detained.

(Signed) W. Q. Gresham.

14425^N.
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 15, 1895.

Copy.

T. B. S.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

Fernandina, Fla.

Report seizure arms to United States Attorney.

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

W.

Charge Department.

Copy.

Office of the Collector of Customs,

Port of New York,

January 15, 1895.

Hon. John G. Carlisle;

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Replying to Department telegram, dated the 12th instatn, requesting information concerning steam yachts "Lagonda" and "Amadis", I have to state that the "Lagonda" hails from this port and that her owner, Rex. William L. Moore, informed this office that he chartered his vessel according to law and subsequently learned from the master thereof that the person who chartered her was not acting in good faith and had attempted to take the vessel to Costa Rica.

Mr. Moore thereupon, under advice of this office, telegraphed to the Collector of Customs at Fernandina to detain the "Lagonda" under sections 5289 and 5290, Revised Statutes, as he had revoked the charter.

The "Amadis" does not hail from this port and does not appear to be documented as a vessel of the United States. It is said, however, that she was built at Castine, Maine, and that her engine was formerly in a lighthouse tender that was wrecked.

Respectfully yours,

James F. Kilbroth,
Collector.

14425N.
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Copy.

T. B. S.

Washington, D. C., January 15, 1895.

The Honorable

The Attorney General.

Sir:

I transmit herewith, for your information, a copy of a telegram received from the Collector of Customs at Fernandina, dated to-day, relating to the seizure of certain arms, and to the steamer "Baracoa".

The Collector has been instructed to report the matter to the District Attorney.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E.T.C. W.

One enclosure.

14425N
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 15, 1895.

Copy.

T. B. S.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

Charleston, South Carolina.

Report immediately to Department arrival yacht "Amadis", stating facts.

(Signed) S. Wike,

Assistant Secretary.

E. T. C.

Charge Department.

Copy.

Office of
Special Agent Treasury Department

Savannah, Ga., January 16, 1895.

Hon. John G. Carlisle,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

As indicated in my telegram of last night, to Department, the "Amadis" arrived at this port at 7.30 yesterday evening; was taken charge of by the Collector, who placed her in the custody of Capt. Rogers, of the Revenue Cutter "Boutwell", with instructions to hold her until further orders.

The yacht was searched and nothing of a contraband nature found. She is commanded by Capt. D. A. Weed, of Rockland Maine; who states she is owned by Mr. G. H. Kimball, of Cleveland, Ohio; that she was chartered by N. B. Bordon, but did not know for what purpose, or where she was to go, but supposed it was intended as a pleasure cruise. His orders at Boston, being to run to Savannah, where he would be met by Bordon.

We have kept a constant lookout at the Hotels for the Messrs. Mantel and Bordon, but so far they have not been found.

Capt. Weed on arrival, found several telegrams awaiting him from Mr. Kimball, all of which he willingly handed over to the Collector. Among them was one dated Boston, January 15th, stating "Charter forfeited, return immediately", &c. No letters, or telegrams were here from Bordon, or the Mess. Mantel:

I enclose a clipping from "The Morning News" which is a very full and accurate account of the arrival and detention of the "Amadis."

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. A. Macatee,

Special Agent.

14425N.
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C., January 16, 1895.

copy.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

Savannah, Ga.

Report by telegraph facts regarding yacht "Amadis".

(Signed) S. Wike,

Assistant Secretary.

E. T. C.

Charge Department.

14425^N.
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Copy.

Washington, D. C., January 18, 1895.

TELEGRAM.

Collector Customs,

Savannah, Ga.

Facts stated in your telegram do not demand special instructions from Department for detention yacht "Amadis". Act accordingly and report.

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

Charge Department.

Copy.

TELEGRAM.

Savannah, Ga., Jan. 16, 1895.

To Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D. C.

Steam yacht Amadis arrived at this port of the 15th instant from Boston via Beaufort, N. C. Was boarded by me in company with Spl. Agt. Macabee; was thoroughly searched and nothing found on board contrary to law or that would indicate a violation of the neutrality laws. Upon arrival here the master found telegram from owner awaiting him stating that the charter had been cancelled and instructing him to return to New York. I questioned the master closely and do not believe he or the owner had any knowledge that the yacht was to be used for illegal purposes. If such was intended by the charterer, I hold yacht awaiting instructions.

J. F. B. Beckwith,

Collector.

Copy.

Office of the Collector of Customs,
Port of Savannah, Ga.,

January 17, 1895.

Hon. J. G. Carlisle,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report, that in obedience to instructions contained in Department's telegram of the 16th instant, I have released the steam yacht "Amadis" temporarily detained at this port under suspicion of an intention to violate the neutrality laws.

Respectfully yours,

J. F. B. Beckwith,

Collector.

Office of the Collector of Customs,

Port of Fernandina, Fla.,

January 19, 1895.

To The Hon.

Secretary of the Treasury,

Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to report my action in the matter of the seizure of the steam yacht "Lagonda" of New York and of the ammunition of war found on board, and cases of fire arms and ammunitions of war found in the ware house of Messrs. N.B. Bordon & Co., of this port as follows:

On January 7th I was advised by the World correspondent at this place, Mr. T. A. Hall, that he had received a dispatch to the effect that there were two(2) vessels leaving New York on January 4th the steam yacht "Lagonda" & "Amadis", that they were suspicious crafts, and to look out for them. On the 9th inst. the "Lagonda" came into port: I at once boarded her and found nothing suspicious. Mr. Bordon (N.B.) agent of the "Lagonda", who I found on board, stated, the yacht was to go up the river (St. Mary's) to take on supply of fresh water, and to wash out the boilers, and invited several gentlemen Mr. T.A. Hall, the World correspondent and myself on the trip, Mr. Hall and myself accepted: about two hours after her arrival at Fernandina: on the trip up the river we found nothing of

a suspicious nature: no one on the yacht except crew- but Mr. Bordon young Mr. D. E. Mantel and ourselves. Mr. Mantel was a son of the old gentleman of the same name, who Mr. Bordon stated had chartered the yacht for the purpose of visiting his plantation in Central America: On our return to Fernandina, about 6 P.M. of the 10th inst., we found an important telegram waiting for Mr. Hall, from the World, to watch carefully the yacht "Lagonda", as she was very suspicious. I immediately wired Captain Rogers of the Revenue Cutter Boutwell, as follows: "Come here at once, important, report to me on arrival." On the morning of the 11th instant, I received the following answer: "Boutwell disabled, suggest you telegraph department for Cutter "Merrill, Rogers, Captain". Immediately upon receiving his answer I wired the Hon. Secretary of the Treasury as follows: "Steam yacht "Lagonda" arrived from New York, bound to some port in South America, under suspicious circumstances, having on board twenty cases of merchandise, which the Agent refuses to allow examined, please wire instructions." This dispatch I thought necessary to send in consequence as stated. I had found twenty (20) or more cases of merchandise of suspicious nature, which had been put on board the yacht the night previous. I should have made an official examination at once, but hesitated in doing so from the fact that the Captain of the yacht had voluntarily delivered his papers to me. I wished further evidence before proceeding in an official manner in the meantime putting a

watch over the yacht: no important developments on the 11th inst. On the 12th instant, I received a communication from Acting Sec'y S. Wike as follows: "Case yacht "Lagonda" stated to have on board suspicious cargo reported to Secretary State and department is waiting reply." and about noon of this date I received the following telegram from W. L. Moore owner of the yacht "Detain "Lagonda" sections fifty-two eighty-nine and ninety, accept no bonds, charter violated and cancelled," and wired you as follows: "Wm. L. Moore, owner of yacht "Lagonda" wires me to detain vessel, quotes sections fifty-two eighty-nine and ninety revised statutes, he says charter is violated and cancelled shall I hold her." Immediately upon receipt of Mr. Moore's telegram I immediately sent Mr. Howell, Deputy Collector, on board the yacht, with instructions to make a thorough examination: he returned in about two hours, with the information that the cases on board, contained, Knapsacks, canteens and belts, which he supposed could be used for plantation purposes for which Mantel claimed were to be used for that purpose: About this time I received the following telegrams from the Department: "If case yacht "Lagonda" covered by article one thirty-six, regulations eighteen ninety-two, take action accordingly, report fully and immediately what further suspicious circumstances attach to the vessel, other than that agent refuses to allow inspection." also "Follow instructions already telegraphed, department is awaiting

report from Collector New York relative to yachts". Soon after the Deputy had returned, Mr. Lukenbill the Agent of the R.R.Co., came into the office accompanied with two(2) negroes, having several cutlasses, canteens and knapsacks; which they stated they had taken from two (2) cases they had fished out of the river. I at once informed the Captain of the yacht that I would detain her, and put on board a Deputy Inspector, and wired you at once the following: "I have taken charge of the yacht Lagonda, examined cases aboard and found they contained knapsacks, canteens and belts, which appear to be second-hand, have just found in river two (2) cases which were thrown overboard from yacht. containing cutlasses and knapsacks. Private telegrams indicate the yacht has or is about to engage in some kind of suspicious traffic, please advise next step." I then wired the U. S. District Attorney, I would like to see him at once. On the morning of the 13th inst. the Captain of the yacht came to me and stated that he had a confession to make and that he wished to make it in presence of Mr. Bordon. I went with him to Mr. Bordon's room, and he stated-which statement was confirmed by Mr. Bordon, that he with Mr. Bordon and Mr Mantel had examined the cases then on board on the 12th inst., before the arrival of the Deputy Collector, and had found several of the cases to contain guns and cartridges, which were thrown overboard by the direction of Mr. Mantel. I immediately wired the department as follows:

"The Captain of Yacht "Lagonda" voluntarily informed me, that he threw overboard several cases containing guns and cartridges, I have telegraphed District Attorney to be here tomorrow: Norwegian fruit steamer Baracoa arrived here 7 o'clock this morning consigned to same agent as Lagonda and is reported to be suspicious, I made careful personal examination of this steamer but found nothing suspicious, will watch her closely. On the morning of this date I wired Special Agent Paul to come here at once; my object in wiring to the attorney and special agent, was for the purpose of consultation, as I considered the situation as very important. On the same date the steamer Baracoa came into port which fact I stated in the foregoing telegram. Special Inspector Anderson arrived here on the evening of this date, and in consultation we decided to seize a number of cases of the same kind of goods, which we suspected were of the same consignment of goods that were found on the "Lagonda". On the 14th instant, acting upon the advice and accompanied by Special Inspector Anderson I went to the ware house of Messrs. N.B. Borden and Co., found the following cases of goods:

27 cases rifles; 9 boxes center fire caps; 5 boxes revolvers; 76 cases cartridges; 2 cases canteens; 4 cases rubber blankets; 1 case cartridges E.F.#2; 1 case leather belts; 7 cases sacks and belts; 18 cases sabers or cutlasses; in all 140 cases. I immediately wired the department as follows: "I have just seized about one

hundred and seventy stand of arms and a lot of Colts Revolvers, cartridges and other army supplies, which I found in ware house of N. B. Bordon, Agent for the yacht "Lagonda" and Norwegian Steamship "Baracoa", a portion of this consignment on board yacht "Lagonda." The supposition is that the goods in warehouse are intended for the Norwegian Steam ship "Baracoa", I am waiting advices from the Department as to what I shall do about the "Baracoa" please wire". During this day the 14th I received several messages from the District Attorney as to his coming here, also the following telegram from Mr. Moore, the owner of the yacht. "Can "Lagonda" be released on my personal application if yes, will start Wednesday- and replied on following day by advice of District Attorney who arrived here on the evening of the 14th "Would like him to come to Fla. to consult ^{to} as the release of the yacht. I received on this date the following message from C. S. Hamlin, Acting Secretary: "Report cases yachts "Lagonda" etc. to U. S. Attorney." District Attorney Clark came over from Jacksonville the evening of this date and took charge of the case. On the 15th inst., I wired the District Attorney (who had returned to Jacksonville) at his request as follows: "Have examined Baracoa find nothing on board." Master has cancelled charter, wants to sail, shall I detain him, could get nothing further from Master of "Lagonda". On this date received following despatch from C. S. Hamlin, Act. Secretary "Report seizure arms to

United States Attorney" On the morning of the 16th inst., I received the following from the District Attorney: "I do not care to hold "Baracoa", "Lagonda" should remain at least until arrival of owner, nothing else new." On receipt of this despatch I cleared the steamship "Baracoa" for New York. On the evening of this date I wired the District Attorney as follows: "Do you propose to take any further steps in seizure matter here, if so will Marshall take charge yacht and property." On the morning of the 17th instant, I received the following despatch from the District Attorney. "Have fully investigated law and unless you have further evidence I will not proceed against "Lagonda" and arms." I was advised by Special Agent Paul, who arrived on the evening of the 16th to do nothing further in the matter of the "Lagonda" and the arms in Bordon's warehouse until after he had seen the District Attorney. On the evening of this date in company with Special Agent Paul, went to Jacksonville and had consultation with the District Attorney, also with Moore, owner of the yacht "Lagonda", who had just arrived from N.Y. The District Attorney instructed me to release the "Lagonda" but still hold the arms until further advised by him. On my arrival at Fernandina on the morning of the 18th I immediately turned the papers of the "Lagonda" over to the Captain and removed the Deputy Inspector from the Yacht.

I beg to report that I have employed during the dates stated,

three Deputy Inspectors and have incurred several small items of expense in connection with the seizure, which I will at an early date estimate for.

Trusting my actions may meet the approval of the Department I have the honor to be,

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

G. L. Baltzell,

Collector of Customs.

Copy.

Copy.

Office of
Special Agent Treasury Department,

Tampa, Florida, Jan'y 21, 1895.

Hon. John G. Carlisle,
Secretary of the Treasury,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

Referring to the Department's telegram of the 12th, repeated to Port Tampa on the 14th in regard to the fillibustering expedition in which the yachts Lagonda and Amadis were alleged to be engaged, I beg to report that at the request of the Collector of Customs at Fernandin dated the 13th, I proceeded to that port on the following day but on arriving there I found that I could do but little, Special Inspector Anderson, the District Attorney having been there.

I desire in this connection to call to the attention of the Department what I consider a inexcusable delay on the part of the Collector in reporting this case and, in view of his acknowledged ignorance of how to act, in not seeking the aid and advice of the officers of the Government near him. Owing to his failure to do this he allowed two of the principals in the expedition to escape, thus shutting

off about the only means of discovering against what country the expedition was directed. The Collector informs me that on Monday the 7th his suspicions were first aroused but it was not until Thursday that he made any move and then wired the Captain of the Revenue Cutter Boutwell at Savannah, ^{which} vessel being under repairs could not respond. Friday the captain of the Lagonda went to the Collector and reported that a number of suspicious boxes had been put on the yacht the night before and asked if any suspicion had been directed towards the yacht. The Collector sent his Deputy on board with the captain but owing to a refusal to allow, on the part of the agent of the yacht, N. B. Borden, made no examination of the contents of the boxes. Sunday the captain of the yacht reported that arms had been thrown overboard from the vessel, but it was only on Monday, after the arrival of Special Inspector Anderson that any search was made and then 140 boxes of arms, ammunition and accoutrements were found in and seized at the warehouse of N. B. Borden. The matter is now in the hands of the District Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. While in Fernandina I found that N. B. Borden, who appears conspicuously in the arrangement of the details of the expedition, was acquainted with Jose ^{? M,} Harti, a well known Cuban revolutionist, and had entertained him at Fernandina no later than last October and while I doubt that this was a full-fledged expedition against that island I think he was interested in it

to the extent that he desires to show to the Cubans in this country who had contributed to the revolutionary fund that he had collected, that he was trying to do something.

I have directed the collector at Fernandina to make a full report to the Department and will not therefore enter into the details of his movements.

Respectfully yours,

S. W. Paul,

Special Agent.

14425^{N.}
Treasury Department,

Office of the Secretary,

Washington, D. C.,

January 22, 1895.

Copy.

T. B. S.

The Honorable

The Attorney General of the United States.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a report dated the 19th instant, from the Collector of Customs at Fernandina, Florida, relative to the steam yacht "Lagonda" found with munitions of war on board. Your attention is invited to the Collector's statement that the arms are still held.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) C. S. Hamlin,

Acting Secretary.

E. T. C.

Enclosure.

Copy.

According to the last reports from reliable source, it appears that the owner of the arms and ammunition seized at Fernandina, is Mr. Mantell, step-son of Mr. Marti, the Cuban agitator. The "Amadis" is expected in Charleston.

Muruago.