**CUBAN CONSULAR REPORTS** 

Official Tales of the Starvation and Sufferings of the Wretched Concentrados.

#### **AUTONOMY NOT SATISFACTORY**

Cumulative Evidence of Spanish Misrule as Told in Communications to the State Department—Spanish Soldiery Hungry and Ill-Thousands Beyond Hope of Any Relief.

WASHINGTON, April 11.-The Consular correspondence with regard to the situation in Cuba which was transmitted to Congress to-day with the message was prepared in response to a resolution of inquiry adopted by both the House and Senate. The correspondence was prepared for transmission to Congress just before the blowing up of the Maine, and having been held up since now includes communications up to April 1. It covers the communications of Consul General Les at Havana, Consul McGarr at Cienfuegos, Consul Brice at Matanzas, Consul Hyatt at Santiago de Cuba, and Consul Barker at Sagua La Grande. The communications make about 60,000 words. They deal largely with the distress and suffering which exist in all the districts. But Gen. Lee reports quite fully upon the decrees of the Government with regard to autonomy and other political phases of the situation. In preparing the correspondence for transmission to Congress, considerable portions of the important communications, and especially those marked confidential, are omitted. The resolutions to which they are the response, in each instance asked only for such correspondence as it was not deemed incompatible with the public interest to make public.

Gen. Lee's correspondence runs over the period from Nov. 17, 1897, to April 1, 1898. Much of this is of a confidential nature, and of some of the important communications excerpts only are given. The period of the correspondence after the blowing up of the Maine contains no reference to that event such communications probably being deemed irrelevant to the purpose of the resolutions calling for the Consular correspondence in the possession of the Government as to the situation of affairs in Cuba.

#### Do Not Want Autonomy.

The first dispatch of Gen. Lee contains Gen. Blanco's order, under date of Nov. 13, repealing, or rather modifying, Gen. Weyler's order of concentration, which has heretofore been published by the press. This order was made shortly after Gen. Lee returned to Havana from the United States last Fall. Gen. Lee in this communication also inclosed the proclamation of J. M. Rodriguez, Major General in charge of the Western Department of the Cuban military operations, addressed to the Cuban people. and informing them of the "firm resolution" of the insurgent army to continue fighting until the attainment of absolute independence. It was on Nov. 23 that Consul General Lee made his first report to the Department of State on the condition of affairs in Cuba. It is as follows:

United States Consulate General, Havana, Nov. 23, 1897. Sir: I have the honor to briefly submit a statement of what appears to be the present condition of affairs in this island: First—The insurgents will not accept au-Second—A large majority of the Spanish subjects who have commercial and business interests and own property here will not accept autonomy, but prefer annexation to the United States rather than an independent republic or genuine autonomy under the Spanish flag.

Third—The Spanish authorities are sincere in doing all in their power to encourage, protect, and promote the grinding of

sugar. The grinding season commences in December.

Fourth—The insurgent leaders have given instructions to prevent grinding wherever it can be done, because by diminishing the export of sugar the Spanish Government revenues are decreased. It will be very difficult for the Spanish authorities to difficult for the Spanish authorities to prevent cane burning, because one man can start a fire at night which will burn hundreds of acres, just as a single individual can light a prairie by throwing a single match into the dry grass.

Fifth—I am confident that Gens. Blanco and Pando, his chief of staff, as well as Dr. Concerts, the Secretary Concerts, with all and Pando, his chief of staff, as well as Dr. Congosto, the Secretary General, with all of whom I have had conversations, are perfectly conscientious in their desire to relieve the distress of those suffering from the effects of Weyler's reconcentration order, but unfortunately they have not the means to carry out such benevolent purposes.

In this city matters are assuming better shape under charitable committees, &c.; large numbers are now cared for and fed by private subscriptions. I witnessed many terrible scenes and saw some die. I am told Gen. Blanco will give \$100,000 to the relief fund.

# THE HORRORS OF HAVANA.

Hundreds Starving in the Ditches of the City-Soldiers in Hospitals and Unfitted for Service.

Nov. 27 Gen. Lee sent to the department the communications of two gentlemen, whose names he says are suppressed for obvious reasons, but whom he knows personally as standing high in the community, concerning the condition in los fosos (the ditches) in Havana. The communication says, among other things: "Four hundred and sixty women and children thrown on the ground, heaped pell mell as animals some in a dying condition, others sick others dead, without the slightest cleanliness or the least help, not even able to give water to the thirsty, without either religious or social help, each one dying wherever chance laid him."

The communication goes on to state that the deaths among these reconcentrados average forty or fifty daily, and that on an average there were but ten days of life for each person. It says that these unhappy creatures received food only after having been eight days in the fosos, during which time they were obliged to subsist upon the bad food which the dying had refused. Some horrible instances of the distress witnessed

"Among the many deaths we saw," says the communication, "there was seen one impossible to forget. There is still alive the only witness, a young girl of eighteen, whom we found seemingly lifeless on th ground. On her right side was the body of a young mother, cold and rigid, but with her young child still alive, clinging to her breast. On her left side was the corpse of a dead woman holding her son in a death embrace. A little further on a dying woman having in her arms a daughter of fourteen, crazy with pain, who after twelve or fourteen days died in spite of the care she

received."

Further along the communication says that if any young girl came in who was nice looking she was infallibly condemned to the most abominable of traffics.

The communication also says that 1,700 persons had entered the fosos since August, and of those but 243 were then living. It places the number of deaths among the reconcentrados at 77 per cent. Dangers to Americans.

# On Dec. 3 Gen. Lee sent to the State De-

partment a communication referring to a cipher dispatch he had sent two days previous, in which he informed the department that he had learned from the United States Consul at Matanzas of an "extensive and dangerous conspiracy under the ex-Governor of the province directed against Americans, action against them to be contingent on the movement of the United States Government in favor of the independence of Cuba." Cuba."
Gen. Lee stated that rumors had been more or less frequent regarding the riotous

intention of some of the dissatisfied elements against American citizens there and in other parts of the island. Such demonstrations, he said, must come from Spanish non-combatants or from volunteer forces. He did not think there was any danger from the former, many of whom seemed to favor annexation rather than autonomy or the independence of the Cuban Republic. "I am inclined to think," says he, "that if Gen. Blanco can manage the volunteers, as yesterday he said he could, the trouble from that source is diminishing. The origin of the mobs in this city in the past has always been located in the ranks of the volunteers, who alone have organization and arms." In consequence of the assurances that Ameriintention of some of the dissatisfied elemen who alone have organization and arms." In consequence of the assurances that American life and property would be protected, Gen. Lee said that he had declined to make application for the presence of one or more warships in Hayana Harbor, and had advised Americans who had wives and children not to send them away, at least for the present. "I still think," continued Gen. Lee, "that two warships at least should be at Key West, prepared to move at short notice, and that more of them should be at Dry Tortugas, and that a coaling station should be established there. Such proceedings would seem to be in line with that prudence and foresight necessary to afford dence and foresight necessary to afford safety to Americans residing on the island and to their properties."

#### What Senor Canalejas Reported.

Under the same date Gen. Lee sends another communication, containing the statements of Señor Canalejas, the editor of the Madrid El Heraldo, who had just returned from Pinar del Rio Province, after the confrom Pinar del Rio Province, after the conflict between the Spanish forces under Gen. Valasco and the Cuban forces under Diaz, in which Canalejas was quoted as saying that the Spanish forces had displayed their usual valor, but that the province was not pacified; that out of 14,000 Spanish troops only between 3,000 and 4,000 were able to operate, the balance being sick at hospitals or in garrisons and towns; that he believed autonomy premature and was inclined to the adoption of energetic military action for the purpose of pacifying the province; that the truth should be known in Spain, where public opinion and the press had been where public opinion and the press had been deceived regarding the termination of the war and the so-called pacification of the western provinces. Lack of Food Everywhere.

Under date of Dec. 7 Gen. Lee sent a communication to the department regarding the measures for the relief of the recon centrados, much of which is not made public. In the portion given out Gen. Lee says: 'I see no effect of the Governmental distribution to the reconcentrados. I am informed that only \$12,500 in Spanish silver has been dedicated to the Habana Province out of the \$100,000 said to have been set aside for the purpose of relieving them on the island, and that reports from all parts of the province show that 50 per cent. have already died, and that many of those left will die, and most of these are women and children. \* \* \* I am informed an order has been issued in some parts of the island suspending the distribution to reconcentrados. \* \* \* The condition of these peotrados. \* \* \* The condition of these people is simply terrible. I hear of much suffering in the Spanish hospitals for want of food. \* \* \* I hear also that the Spanish merchants in some parts of the island are placing their establishments in the name of foreigners, to avoid having their provisions purchased on credit by the military administration. In some parts of the island I am that there is scarcely any food for soldiers

conditions that it is not possible for the Governor General to relieve the present situation with the means at his disposal."

Dec. 13 came the following: "Sir: 1 have the honor to make the following report: \* \* The contest for and against autonomy is most unequal. For it there are five or six of the head officers at the palace and twenty or thirty other persons here in the city. \* \* \* Against it, first, are the insurgents, with or without arms, and the Cuban noncombatants. Secarms, and the Cuban noncombatants. Second, the great mass of the Spaniards bearing or not bearing arms—the latter desiring, if there must be a change, annexation to the United States. Indeed, there is the greatest apathy concerning autonomy in any form. No one asks what it will be or when or how it will come. I do not see how it could be even put into operation by force, because as long as the insurgents decline to because as long as the insurgents decline to accept it so long, the Spanish authorities say, the war must continue."

Dec. 14 Gen. Lee sends another communi-

told there is scarcely any food for soldiers or citizens, and that even cats are used for food purposes, selling for 30 cents apiece. It is a fair inference to draw from existing

Dec. 14 Gen. Lee sends another communication, saying that the total number of reconcentrados in Habana Province will reach 150,000, and that the death rate from starvation alone would be over 50 per cent. For the relief of these people he says \$12,500 in silver has been set aside, "so that if every dollar appropriated reaches them the distribution will average about 17 cents to a person, which, of course, will be rapidly exhausted, and as I can hear of no further succer heing afforded it is easy to perceive succor being afforded it is easy to perceive what little practical relief has taken place in the condition of these poor people." The New Plan for Autonomy,

Dec. 28 Gen. Lee makes the first communication about the new scheme of autonomy. He says that he has been informed that the authorities are engaged in forming an autonomistic cabinet, arranging for the members to take the required oath on Jan. 1, bers to take the required oath on Jan. 1, and "also for an election thirty days thereafter. \* \* My present information is that most of the Spaniards will refrain from voting and nearly all the Cubans. \* \* \* The feeling in Havana, and I hear in other parts of the island, is strong against it, the Cubans desiring an independent republic, and the Spaniards preferring annexation to the United States rather than autonomy. On the night of the 24th inst. there seems to have been a concerted plan over the island to testify the disapprobation of the people to the proposed autonomistic plan of the Spanish Government." He goes on to de-Spanish Government." He goes on to describe how it culminated about 2 o'clock on the morning of the 25th, when a mob assembled in the principal square of the city, with cries of "Death to Autonomy!" and "Viva Weyler!" He says the men in the and "Viva Weyler!" He says the men in the mob had stones in their pockets and some of them were armed with weapons. "They made a demonstration, too, against the office of the Diario de la Marina, a paper published in this town favoring autonomy, but were dispersed by the military police and soldlers. \* \* \*

# Of the Efforts for Relief.

The same day Gen. Lee acknowledges the receipt of President McKinley's proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to make charitable contributions for the relief of the distress in Cuba. Other telegrams follow during the next few days as to the class of contributions which would be most valuable in relieving the suffering. Jan, 8 Gen. Lee makes the following re-

Jan. 8 Gen. Lee makes the following report:

"Sir: I have the honor to state, as a matter of public interest, that the reconcentrado order of Gen. Weyler, formerly Governor General of this island, transformed about 400,000 self-supporting people, principally women and children, into a multitude to be sustained by the contributions of others, or to die of starvation or of fevers resulting from a low physical condition and being massed in large bodies, without change of clothing and without food. Their homes were burned, their fields and plant beds destroyed, and their live stock driven away or killed. I estimate that probably 200,000 of the rural population of the Provinces of Pinar del Rio, Habana, Matanzas, and Santa Clara have died of starvation or from resultant causes; and the deaths of whole families almost simultaneously or within a few days of each other, and of mothers praying for their children to be relieved of their horrfble suffering by death, are not the least of the many pitiable scenes which were ever present. In the Provinces of Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba, where the reconcentrado order could not be enforced, the great mass of the people are self-sustaining. \* \* A daily average of where the reconcentrado order could not be enforced, the great mass of the people are self-sustaining. \* \* \* A daily average of 10 cents worth of food to 200,000 people would be an expenditure of \$20,000 per day, and of course the most humane efforts upon the part of our citizens cannot hope to accomplish such a gigantic relief, and a great portion of these people will have to be abandoned to their fate. \* \* \*"

Gen. Lee inclosed in this communication an editorial from the Diario de la Marina which vigorously denounced the "seditious tumult" of the day before as a victory for Gomez and the enemies of Spain.

# Starvation in Santa Clara.

Gomez and the enemies of Spain.

On the same day he also sent to the department some statistics about the mortality in Santa Clara, showing that, while there were 5,489 deaths in that town in the seven previous years to 1897, which included 1,417 in one year from an epidemic of yellow fever, there were in 1897, owing to the concentration order, 6,981 deaths out of a total population of 14,000. The death rate increased monthly from 78 in January, the month before the concentration order went month before the concentration order went into effect, until December, when there were The Rioting in Havana.

# Jan. 12, 13, 14, and 15 Gen. Lee sent brief

cablegrams to the department with regard to the rioting and the demonstrations against autonomy, and Gen. Blanco and the three newspaper offices.

Jan. 13 he said some of the rioters threatened to go to the United States Consulate. "Ships," he said, "are not needed, but may be later. If Americans are in danger, ships

should move promptly for Havana. Uncertainty and excitement widespread." The rioting ceased the next day, and Gen. Lee reported all quiet.
On the 18th Gen. Lee sent a dispatch marked "confidential" regarding the riotmarked "confidential" regarding the rioting: It follows:

"Sir: The recent disorders in this city are to be primarily attributed to a group of Spanish officers who were incensed at articles appearing in three of the newspapers of Havena—El Reconcentrado, La Discusion, and El Diario de la Marina. The first was very pronounced against Gen. Weyler and his methods. The Discusion had been suppressed by Weyler, but its publication was permitted to be resumed by Blanco, and the last had been an ultra Spanish organ, but had been converted by the present authorities to autonomy. It is probable that the Spanish officers were first provoked by the denunciations of Weyler in the columns of one of these papers, and determined to stop it, and afterward, being supported by the mob, turned the demonstration into an antiautonomistic affair. I send to-day an analysis of the autonomistic plan. The intense opposition to it on the part of the Spaniard arises from the fact that the first appointments of the officers to put into form its provisions were made generally outside of their party in order to show the Cubans in arms that autonomy was instituted for their benefit and protection. \* \* \* The intelligent Spaniards \* \* see no prosperity in the future but rather other wars and more confusion, in the same old attempts to make the waters of commerce flow in unnatural channels. The lower Spanish classes have nothing in mind when autonomy is mentioned except Cuban local rule; hence their opposition. \* \* \* "

Feb. 10 Gen. Lee telegraphed the State Department as follows: "Captain-General returned yesterday, met with no success of any sort. Spaniards everywhere unfriendly. Rumors of coming demonstration against him here. I think him an excellent man, but in an unfortunate position. Three serious combats reported within a week, in each insurgents victorlous."

Condition of Reconcentrados Near ing: It follows: The recent disorders in this city

each insurgents victorious."

Condition of Reconcentrados Near Havana.

The same day he sent to the State Department a statement of the condition in the towns in the neighborhood of the City of Havana made by a person he had sent to those places for the purpose of inspecting the number and condition of the starving. The statement covers four towns in the neighborhood of Havana and is largely a repetition of the awful tale of suffering which came from the other portions of the island. At Melena Del Sur, the statement says, it is impossible for the Mayor, owing to the unhealthy conditions prevailing and the want of resources, to relieve the miserable people, "who die in great numbers from starvation, fever, and smallpox. There are other towns in the same condition, for example, Guines, Catalina, and Nadruga, whose situation could be in some degree relieved if the country people were allowed to leave the town freely in search of food. In some towns this is entirely prohibited, in others they are obliged to pay a tax. Not having anything to eat, how can they pay a tax? In every town the first thing noticed is the unhealthy condition of the men and their total lack of physical strength."

At Cataline de Guines the statement reports the condition of the reconcentrados as sad and desperate. There are, it says, "no zones of cultivation," and the reconcentrados are not allowed to leave the town in search of work or food, even with a military pass. "Food is so scarce that one must walk four or five miles before finding a sweet potato. In these districts the relief given to the reconcentrados by Gen. Blanco is a Havana made by a person he had sent to potato. In these districts the relief given o the reconcentrados by Gen. Blanco is a The land near the town comprised in the The land near the town comprised in the zone for cultivation, the statement further says, has been rented by four Spaniards who have wealth and influence, and they employ the few reconcentrados who are able to work at 30 or 40 cents per day, but nobody can leave the town without a pass good for a month, and which costs 20 cents. The workmen have to leave at 6 in the morning, and, not being able to take their meals with them, are obliged to work until 6 in the evening without food. The women who leave in search of vegetables women who leave in search of vegetables are sometimes deprived of them on their way back by guerrillas. In fifteen days 200 reconcentrados have died in Guines from reconcentrados have died in Guines from starvation.

"One of the few protectors of the reconcentrados, in fact, a heroic one," says the statement further along, "is a young man named José Amohedo, whose father and mother died attending the suffering poor, and who himself has given up eight houses belonging to him as dwelling places for the reconcentrados, all the contents of a grocery store which he possessed, and who is now as destitute as they are, but always attend-

## as destitute as they are, but always attending to those who suffer." Letter from Gen. Gomez.

On Feb. 15 Gen. Lee transmitted to the department a letter, with its translation, signed by the insurgent Commander in Chief. Gen. Gomez, addressed to President McKinley. Gen. Lee says the letter was delivered by a messenger, who at once departed before he saw or had any communication with him. The letter is as follows: (Translation )

(Translation)

for William McKinley, President of the
United States:
Sir: The heroic Cuban people possess, as a

United States:
Sir: The heroic Cuban people possess, as a characteristic quality of its moral being, and developed to a high degree, one of the most noble sentiments, namely, gratitude; whoever has done well for Cuba wins for himself forever the lively recognition of the sons of Cuban soil.

Your great people has given to the world an example of lofty virtue, and to the shame and stain of Spain, not only has it shown compassion before the great misfortunes brought on Cuba by the ferocious Spanish policy, but has extended a helping hand to the unhappy victims of the warfare carried on by the army of that nation.

The gratitude of this people must be on a par with that great and generous impulse, and if Cuba, by its geographical situation and the necessity of its commercial existence, is called to maintain, once that it is free, and for the mutual benefit of both countries, closer relations with your great Republic than with any other nation whatever, from this day forward Cuba will consider herself bound by a closer tie in the affection it bears for the noble American magnanimity.

sider herself bound by a closer tie in the affection it bears for the noble American magnanimity.

However true and minute may be the reports you have heard, never will you be able to form a just conception of all the bloodshed, the misery, the ruin, and the sorrow caused to the affiloted Cubans, to obtain her independence, and how the despotic spirit of Spain, irritated to the last degree before the most just of all rebellions, has reveled in the most implacable destruction of everything, lives and property. The nation which at one time adopted the Inquisition and invented its tortures lastly conceived the concentration scheme, the most horrible of all means to martyrize and then to annihilate an entire people, and if it has stopped in the path of destruction it is due in a great measure to the cry of indignation which the knowledge of such horrors unanimously drew from the States over which you govern.

The people who are saved from extinction and whose ills your gifts assuage is the people for whose liberty we daily shed our blood on the fields of battle; the country whose independence we now conquer at the state of the award for them is also for us

the people for whose liberty we daily shed our blood on the fields of battle; the country whose independence we now conquer at the point of the sword for them is also for us. Blood of our blood, and fiesh of our flesh, we must rejoice with them in their joys, as we weep and sympathize with them in their sorrows and griefs. Be not surprised, then, as the General in Chief of this Cuban Army, I am so deeply moved at the wave of compassion which agitates your noble country, and that I accede to the request of the patriots I command to appear before you, the representative of the great Nation, as the exponent of our immense gratitude.

I have, therefore, Sir, to fulfill a conscientious duty by setting forth a fact which I beg you will please transmit to the knowledge of the persons to whom is recommended the philanthropic mission of succoring the unhappy, destitute Cubans, and in order that ignorance of certain antecedents may not deprive many needy ones of the enforment of that noble American charity order that ignorance of certain antecedents may not deprive many needy ones of the enjoyment of that noble American charity.

The revolution, as absolute master of the country, has never proscribed any citizen, whatever his nationality, from earning his living, and it has happened that as soon as the barbarous concentration decree was derogated, innumerable families have left and still leave the city for the fields, impelled by hunger to wrest from the fruitful Cuban vegetation the means of relieving the most pressing needs of life. Those unhappy beings ignore the fact that, if the Spaniards by steel and privation have shrouded their hearths in mourning, so also it may be said that the flora of Cuba was in mourning, devastated by the bullet and torch. Wherefore, being in the same circumstances, these unfortunates have the same moral right to participate in the relief furnished to needy Cubans by your generous people. Many a wider many a mother many an orphan Cubans by your generous people. Many a widow, many a mother, many an orphan, do we meet in our way who asks of us succor that we are not able to give but most sparingly, and therefore upon pointing out to them the charity awakened in their behalf in your noble Nation, I desire to honor myself by offering my services to decorate.

#### onniand. I am, Sir, with the most distinguished con-ideration, M. GOMEZ. Red Cross Relief Work.

myself by offering my services to co-operate in the noble work with all the power and means within the reach of the forces I

March 1 Gen. Lee reports that the distribution of food, medicines, and clothing to the destitute is proceeding satisfactorily. The work, he says, has been well organized and systematized under the supervision and direction of Miss Clara Barton. President of the Red Cross of the United States, and her active, able, and experienced assistant. He says that the number of the poor and destitute is so large that it is impossible to relieve large numbers in each locality, but that he can state with confidence that, un-

relieve large numbers in each locality, but that he can state with confidence that, under the present system of distribution, the supplies are not lost nor wasted, but reach those for whom they are intended.

March 14 he incloses a letter from Consul Walter B. Barker of Sagua, who requests him to transmit the following letter, which is addressed to him, (Gen. Lee.)

"Dear Sir: I will thank you to communicate to the department as quickly as possible the fact that the military commander and other military officers positively refuse to allow the reconcentrados to whom I am issuing food in its raw state to procure fuel with which to cook the food. In addition they have prohibited this class of people (I am only giving food to about one-fifth of the destitute; the authorities having quit altogether) from gathering vegetables cultivated within the protection of the forts, telling them 'The Americans \* \* \* propose to feed you, and to the Americans you must feed you, and to the Americans you must March 17 Gen. Lee informs the depart-

March 17 Gen. Lee informs the department that the Governor General, by decree of March 5, prorogued in all parts to March 31, 1893, the decree of the General Government of April 19, 1897, relative to the suspension of legal proceedings against agricultural real estate, with the reservation of what may be agreed upon by the insular chambers "in due season." chambers "in due season."

March 28 Gen. Lee reports that "instructions have been given by the civil Government of Havana that the Alcaldes and other authorities shall not give out any facts about the reconcentrados, and if any of the American relief committees should make inquiries concerning them, all such inquiries must be referred to him."

Gen. Lee's dispatches consider with a dispatches.

Gen. Lee's dispatches conclude with a dispatch under date of April 1, transmitting the decree of the Governor General terminating the concentration order.

## THE SITUATION IN MATANZAS.

Over Ninety Thousand People in a Starving Condition-Spanish Authorities Give No Adequate Relief.

The communications from Mr. Brice, Consul at Matanzas, number only seven or eight, and most of them are brief. The correspondence from him begins with the 17th of November last, and closes with the 8th of February, 1898. Probably the most striking feature of Mr. Brice's communications is an anticle written on the 18th of January last, and devoted to Cuban destitution, in response to a circular letter of the State Department dated ten days before. "This," he says, "intimates that help is to be extended by the United States to the starving people of Cuba. The news of this relief has been known for the past two weeks and has extended all over the province. This Consulate has been overwhelmed with people of all classes asking to be remembered when this relief comes."

Mr. Brice then gives a number of facts illustrating the suffering in the province. He says there are in Matanzas Province alone 90,000 people who are in actual starving condition, and require food, clothing, and medicines. Continuing, he says: "In addition to the above are thousands of families of the better classes and formerly well-to-do, who to-day are living on one meal a day, and that very scant. They have sold or pawned furniture, jewelry, clothing, &c., to eke out an existence until all is gone or nearly so. Too proud to beg, they suffer in silence and many die of starvation. The daughter of a former Governor of this province was seen (incognito) begging on the streets of this city. Many of these people call on me privately at my rections as the streets of a praying for God's sake starving people of Cuba. The news of this ging on the streets of this city. Many of these people call on me privately at my residence asking and praying for God's sake to be remembered when this relief comes from the United States. One has to be here, know and mingle with these people, to fully realize the terrible destitution and misery existing in Cuba. It is to be hoped that this relief from the United States will come quickly, for hundreds are dying daily of starvation. Conditions are dreadful, and no relief is afforded by the Spanish authorities."

In his first communication of the series, dated Nov. 17, Mr. Brice stated that neither the Spaniards nor the Cubans of that section were in sympathy with the proposed autonomy and reforms. He noted the issuance of the order to municipal authorities to issue rations and clothing, but says that no attention was paid to it. no attention was paid to it.

In this communication he places the death rate at over eighty persons daily, nearly all of whom were dying for want of food, medicines, and clothing. "As I write this," he says, "a dead negro woman lies in the street within two hundred yards of this Consulate, starved to death. She died some time this morning, and will lie there, may be, for days."

be, for days." Reconcentrados Not Allowed to Work. Mr. Brice also notes the issuance of an turn to the country, but he says the restrictions in the order are such as to practically prohibit this. "If they went," he says. "what can they do without money, food, or shelter?" adding, "Only those who can obtain employment on sugar plantations can live. Insugents say no one will be allowed to grind in the Province of Matanzas. The situation is indeed deplorable, and I am free to say no real help can be expected from the Spanish Government, and the fate of the remaining reconcentrados is slow, lingering, death from starvation."

Writing on the 17th of December, Mr. Brice says that the relief offered to reconcentrados and other poor people by the Spanish authorities is ineffectual. "I have," he says "personally risted the head masters ish authorities is ineffectual. "I have," he says, "personally visited the head masters of distributing stations. Two thousand rations were given out for a few days only to 8,000 persons. There are more than 12,000 starving people in this city to-day. One out of four or six receive two ounces of rice, ore and a half ounces of jerked beef, and sometimes a small piece of bread per diem. Even this ration of food has been discontinued since the 11th inst."

Mr Brice mentions several instances of been discontinued since the 11th inst."

Mr. Brice mentions several instances of distress, among others the following: In a family of seventeen, living in an old lime kiln, all were found dead except three and they barely alive. He says again that Gen. Blanco's order allowing reconcentrados to return and cultivate the crops is inoperative and of no avail.

Writing on the 17th of January, he says:

"The people are shut up in the cities and

"The people are shut up in the cities and towns like rats to starve. We have fifteen or eighteen families of American reconcentrades who own property in the country, and were they allowed to go to their homes could make a good living. All these have begged and pleaded with the authorities under Blanco's order to go and were in every case refused."

#### One Hundred Tons of Provisions a Month Would Be Required to

IN SANTA CLARA PROVINCE.

Keep the Starving People Alive in This Section Alone.

Consul Barker covers the conditions existing in Santa Clara Province in a number of communications, beginning on the 20th of November, 1897, and closing on the 24th of March last. His letters constitute one long story of sickness, destitution, and death.

Mr. Barker devoted comparatively little space to political questions, but one or two of his letters are along these lines. In one, written on Jan. 10, he volunteers some suggestions to the Department of State. He says: "When Spain will admit defeat no mortal

in my humble judgment dare predict. That her plan of settlement-autonomy-is a failure, and that with this failure passes from under her dominion the island, is not to be questioned. Pending this admission on her part thousands of human beings, guiltless of bringing on or having any part in the insurrection, are dying for want of sustenance. This condition must continue to increase. The United States, in taking action relative to Cuba—which seems inevitable—desires to avoid a clash with Spain. Ther let Congress alter our citizenship laws by amending the statute relative to the declaamending the statute relative to the declaration required of persons becoming citizens by naturalization, so that the subjects or citizens of any government at present residing at Cuba may go before any United States Consul in that island and make declaration of his intention of becoming a citizen of the United States, which shall entitle them to recognition as citizens, until the expiration of two years, when they be required to reside in the United States unfil five years shall have elapsed before being granted naturalization papers. With such a privilege I am confident 90 per cent. of the resident Spaniards, the hitherto dominant party and taxpayers, will avail themselves of this opportunity of rebuking the mother country for attempting to foist upon them changes in the existing laws of the island. Such a step would cause the home subjects as well as the Government to acquiesce without disturbance in the loss of the island."

the island."
Mr. Barker then suggests that the United

at Santiago are made by Consul Hyatt, be-

and to employment. He adds that the relief from the United States must be continued or the people must starve so long as there is an armed Spanish soldier in the country, "since these people, for fear of being murdered, do not go to their country homes."

On the 15th of January Mr. Barker says: "In this Consular district a reign of terror and anarchy prevails, which the authorities, even if so disposed, are utterly powerless to control or in any measure subdue. Aside from the suffering and desperation caused by the unparalleled destitution, I regard the situation as rapidly assuming a critical stage. As stated heretofore, in no way have the authorities departed from the policy pursued by the late, but not lamented, Gen. Weyler. Spanish troops as well as the guerrillas under the cruel chiefs Carreraz, Olavarrietta, and Lazo continue to despoil the country and drench it with the blood of non-combatants. Although the 'bando' of the Captain General provides that laborers may return to estates, it restricts their operations to those having a garrison. Last week a number belonging to the 'Sta. Ana' estate, located within a league of Sagua, and owned by Mr. George Thorndika of Newport, R. I., were driven off after returning, and were refused permits as a protection by the military commander, Mayor Lomo, one of the trusted officers under the Weyler regime."

Extent of the Starvation.

States shall offer her good offices to Spain with a view of securing an armistice of ninety days' duration for the purpose of discussing terms of settlement between Spain and the insurgents, the United States to be the umpire. Pending negotiations he would have all troops quartered and held in the large fortified coast towns, in order that the concentrados may return to the country and to employment. He adds that the relief from the United States must be continued or the people must starve so long as there is

The latter part of Mr. Barker's correspondence, beginning with the 12th of

March, is devoted to a statement of the relief labors and an estimate of the funds required to continue this work. He states that from the 15th of February to the 12th of March he cared for 1,200 persons, increasing the number on the relief list after creasing the number on the relief list after that date to 2,000. He then details the work done by the Red Cross Society, the various local committees, and others, to each of whom he gives due credit. Having done this, Mr. Barker states his opinion to be that if provision could be made to care for 25,000 persons in that province, whatever might be left would manage to survive. He thought that to keep 25,000 persons alive would require 80 tons of provisions a month. He then stated that of the 5,000 utterly destitute in that city the Mayor had in a manner relieved about one-third of the number with rations of rice and beans. In this communication Mr. Barker indicated that the Spanish local authorities were willing to accept aid from thorities were willing to accept aid from the United States, and he added that while he had been generally doubtful of the will-ingness of the military authorities to re-ceive this assistance, he had accepted their co-operation when convinced it was tenco-operation when convinced it was tendered with sincerity.

On the 24th of March Mr. Barker increased his estimate as to the amount of food necessary to keep life in the people of that province. In the telegram of that date he said that fifty tons were needful for that time and that the distress was far greater than his former reports had shown. In the letter of this date he recounts the particulars letter of this date he recounts the particulars of a visit to Santa Clara, the seat of Government of the province of the same name, where he learned from his own agents and also from the Governor of the province that the number of persons in actual want exceeded any estimate which he had previously sent to the Government and he had said only three days before that he thought twenty tons per month should be added to the eighty tons previously suggested. In this communication Mr. Barker says. "The distress is simply heartrending. Whole families without clothing to hide their nakedness are sleeping on the bare ground, without bedding of any kind, without food, save to such as we have been able to reach with provisions sent by our own noble people, and the most distressing feature is that fully 50 per cent. are ill, without medical attention or medicine." Mr. Barker adds that if \$5,000 could be telegraphed to Conthat if \$5,000 could be telegraphed to Consul General Lee blankets, cots, and medicines could be purchased there in the several towns adjacent, and thus save thousands who must die if compelled to await the sending of these supplies from the United States. "I have," he says, "found the civil Governor willing to lend every aid in his power, but he admits that he can do nothing but assist with his civil officers in expediting relief sent by the United States. The military obstruct in every way possible."

ble."

In the earlier portion of his correspondence Mr. Barker indicates the reasons why Gen. Blanco's orders relieving the reconcentrados must prove of no avail. He says that while the first article of the order grants permission to the starving class to return to the country, the third article abrogates this permission in exacting that the places to which they go must be garrisoned. This condition alone, he says, will preclude over half of these poor unfortunates, for their homes are in ruins, and the sugar estates able to maintain a guard can sugar estates able to maintain a guard can care for but a small percentage of the whole. Mr. Barker says that while he does whole. Mr. Barker says that while he does not question the good intention of those in power, yet "it is a self-evident fact that the authorities are utterly helpless to extend any relief to those who have thus far survived the pangs of hunger." Mr. Barker says his observation does not bear out the statement made by the Captain General through a letter to the Spanish Minister that "extension zones of cultivation have been organized, that daily rations are provided by the State, and that work is furnished."

mished."
Mr. Barker also points out the impracticability of grinding cane under the present conditions. He says in a letter of the 20th of November that he had interviewed most of the large planters in his Consular district and that they had stated that unless asand that they had stated that three as-sured of immunity from the insurgent Chief, Gomez, they would not attempt to grind, as by so doing they would jcopardize their property. He adds that it is "a fact that the military are powerless to give this necessary protection."

#### An Appalling Death Roll. Mr. Barker devotes much space to the

suffering and mortality of the people of his

province. He places the mortality figures for six of the principal cities of his district for the period beginning with Jan. 1 and ending Nov. 15, 1897, at 80,589. He says this is the official record, and that says this is the official record, and that fully 25 per cent, should be added to cover deaths of which no record was kept. "Undoubtedly," he says, "one-half the concentrated people have died, and to-day Spanish soldiers are companion victims of the surviving non-combatants. This appalling death roll is mute yet convincing proof of the terrible destruction of life as spanish soluters are companiants. This appalling death roll is mute yet convincing proof of the terrible destruction of life as a result of the main policy pursued in attempting to subjugate the island. With me the conviction is firmly rooted that within sixty days 90 per cent. of the populace will reach a state of craving hunger, nor do I feel that I am speaking chimerically when I include the rank and file of the Spanish Army. The true status as viewed at present will bear out this opinion. The suffering among the troops as well as the reconcentrados simply beggars portrayal, while discontent ripens daily."

In a communication dated Dec. 13, 1897, Mr. Barker relates the particulars of a visit he made to five of the principal railroad towns in his Consular district, which tour had been undertaken to verify previous statements. This trip covered the towns of Santa Clara, Cruces, Esperanza, Jicotea, and Santa Domingo, and of it he says "the destitution is simply too harrowing to recite and must become intensified each day. The death rate for last month shows an increase of about 25 per cent. In these towns I got my information from the Mayors of each. From them I learned that while there there was an issue of food running from three to five days, beginning on the 8th ult., consisting of ten ounces of bacon or jerked beef and six ounces of rice for adults, with half this allowance for children under fourteen years, the pittance given was sufficient only for one-fourth to one-tenth of the starving. No further relief has been given up to date, and the Mayors of these towns are authority for stating that the Captain General was apparently given because of the insufficiency of the food supply for the Spanish soldiers. The Mayor of Santa Clara also told Mr. Barker that the military commander had informed him that he was to give food to no ene having relatives in the insurrection, which would exclude 75 per cent. of the destitute. From this Mr. Barker concludes that however sincere may be the desire to help the reconce

#### Soldiers on Scant Rations. Mr. Barker dwells in almost all of his communications upon the paucity of food of the

Spanish soldiers. In this of the 13th of Decomber he says: "On my recent trip I found the Spanish soldiers are not only suffering for necessary food, but I was often fering for necessary food, but I was often appealed to by these pitiable creatures for medicine. One has only to look upon them to be assured of the needs complained of."

In his letter of the 28th of December Mr. Barker repeats his observation upon the suffering and destitution among the reconcentrados, saying "how could the situation be otherwise, since the island is producing absolutely nothing save some growing cane, and is at the same time completely exhausted of all food. Relief alone can be obtained from the outer world in the way of charitable contribution. To grind the cane with

out interruption would be the means of saving the lives of thousands, who without this or outside aid within thirty to fifty days must die of actual hunger. Over a month since the planters were officially advised of Spain's inability to provide protection in order to operate its mills. This leaves the sugar growers entirely in the hands of the Cubans in revolt as to whether they will be allowed to grind without hindrance or fear of total destruction of their property. I know that strict orders have been given to subordinate commanders that under no circumstances must mills be permitted to grind under penalty of violation of the order for the destruction of property."

In several places in Mr. Barker's letters stars are inserted, showing that portions of them have been omitted. These omissions are generally in places where he deals with the condition of the reconcentrados.

### CONSUL HYATT'S REPORTS.

Political Affairs in the Eastern End of the Island, Where the Insurgents Are Generally in Control.

The reports on the condition of affairs

ginning on the 15th of November last. Mr. Hyatt had then but recently returned to the island, and he begins his reports with a review of the conditions of the insurgents and of the autonomists. He had been disposed, he says, to believe that the insurgents were weakening and that the autonomists were coming to the front. After investigation, however, he was convinced that such was not the fact. "The change of policy as expressed by Captain General Blanco is," he says, "doubtless modifying the feeling of resentment which formerly prevailed, and should the near future prove discouraging to the insurgents would doubtless smooth the way to pacification." In this same communication Mr. Hyatt discusses the policy which the United States should pursue. Among property holders, whether Americans or citizens of other nationalities, he says there is but one sentiment. This sentiment is either "hands off," or such active intervention as will quickly terminate the struggle. They, he says, greatly deprecate constant agitation, which makes the governing classes enemies to American interests and brings no correspondig advantages. In a letter dated Nov. 26, Mr. Hyatt says: "The text of the new autonomy, as published here, is not meeting with favor by the most ardent friends of Spain. There is, however, a feeling of relief and safety since the change in the Captain Generalship." A portion of this dispatch is withheld by the State Department.

Writing on the 5th of December, Mr. Hyatt said: "The reconcentration order is relaxed, but not removed, but many people have reached a point where it is a mat-ter of entire indifference to them whether it is removed or not, for they have lost all interest in the problem of existence. A census of the island taken to-day, as compared with one taken three years ago, would, I feel confident, show that two-thirds of the residents are missing, and thirds of the residents are missing the Spanish Army would make no better Dec. 14 Mr. Hyatt wrote: "The order of

reconcentration has now been practically wiped out, and, so far as the Spanish Government is concerned, men go about nearly as they please. The insurgents and their sympathizers will unquestionably take adsympathizers will unquestionably take advantage of the revocation to get from the towns and cities what they need and otherwise strengthen their cause. The effects on agricultural pursuits will be disappointing, because the great majority of those who would or should take up the work joined the insurgent forces when compelled to leave their homes, and the portion which came within the lines of reconcentration are women, children, old and sickly people, most of whom seem to have little interest in the problem of life. There is no one to take these people back to the fields and in the problem of life. There is no one to take these people back to the fields and utilize their remaining strength. Their houses are destroyed, the fields are overgrown with weeds, they have no seeds to plant, and if they had, they could not live sixty or eighty days until the crop matured, which when grown would more than likely. sixty or eighty days until the crop matured, which, when grown, would more than likely be taken by one or the other of the contending parties." Closing this communication, Mr. Hyatt says: "I give it as my opinion, an opinion that is not biased in favor of Cuba, that Spain will be compelled to prosecute a far more vigorous war than has yet been done if she conquers in Cuba. I think I speak advisedly when I say that I think I speak advisedly when I say that in this end of the island at least there are many thousand square miles where the foot of the Spanish soldier has never trod. Within this zone the insurgents have their families, corral their horses and cattle, and raise their crops. Why Spain, with a large raise their crops. Why Spain, with a large body of as obedient and brave soldiers as ever shouldered a gun, has not penetrated these grounds and scattered to the four winds the comparatively small body of men who are there is a question I will not attempt to answer. As I write a man is dying in the street in front of my doon, the third in a comparatively short time."

# Death Rate in That District.

Mr. Hyatt's letter of the 21st of December deals largely with the sickness and the death rate on the island, which he characterizes as appalling. Statistics, he says. make a grievous showing, but come far short of the truth. The disease is generally brought on by insufficient food. He mentions soma who are attacked who have plenty, but these recover quickly, while others die or make very slow recovery. The prevaling disease is sometimes called paludal fever, and at other times la grippe, and it is epidemic rather than contagious. At the date of this letter from 30 to 40 per cent. of the people were afflicted with it. He also reported smallpox and yellow fever as prevailing, and said that out of a total of 16,000 soldiers recently sent to Manzanillo nearly 5,000 were in hospitials or quartered on the people. Dr. Caminero, United States Sanitary Inspector, had reported at that time that there were over 12,000 persons sick in bed, not counting these in military hosmake a grievous showing, but come far time that there were over 12,000 persons slok in bed, not counting those in military hospitals. This is at least 35 per cent. of the entire population. Mr. Hyatt adds that quinine, the only remedy of avail, is sold at a price ten times higher than in the United States. He says that steamers coming into the port give out soup once a day to the waiting throngs, and that fresh meat sells at from 50 cents to \$1 per pound.

Bribes for Autonomists. Mr. Hyatt dealt with the efforts to establish autonomy in a letter dated Jan. 1, saying that the scheme had been pushed with great vigor, "almost or quite to the point of forcing men to join the party when they could not be hired by a minor offica. When here a few days since Gen. Pando sent for a Mr. Lora and said: 'You have two active and influential brothers in the rebel army. You must go at once to these brothers and tell them to come in and join the autonomist party and they will be provided for by me.' Mr. Lora replied: 'I ran away from my home to escape joining the insurgents; my brothers chose to join them. I will obey your commands if you desire to sacrifice my life. My brothers would order me shot on the spot if I approached them with your proposition.' Gen. Pando withdrew his command. Enrique Capeiles, who was Governor of this province they could not be hired by a minor office. proached them with your proposition.' Gen. Pando withdrew his command. Enrique Capeiles, who was Governor of this province some four years ago, returned to the same position about a month since. He has worked with great energy to build up the autonomist party, but he resigned to-day and took a solemn oath that he would never again set foot on Cuban soil. He declared himself both discouraged and disgusted."

Mr. Hyatt writes on Jan. 3 that "wholesale removals of Spanish officers from civil positions are made sweeping orders with instructions to fill their places with Cuban autonomists. About a week since there came an order dismissing every employe of the Custom House in this city, to take effect as soon as proper autonomists could be found to fill their places. \* \* In many cases where Cubans are anticipating the acceptance of an office they have sent to the field to ask permission from insurgent officers. It will thus be seen that Cubans are moving very slowly in accepting autonomy. As yet only two employes of the customs service have been named, the Collector and First Deputy. Against these a strong remonstrance was at once sent in, so the entire old corps are still in place. The newly appointed Provincial Governor Chavez has been here for several days, but as yet has not taken charge." Apparently, much of this communication had been eliminated before it was sent to Congress. Mr. Hyatt closes it with a statement that "numerous dead bodies at the cemetery are carried over from day to day, because the sexton is unable to bury them, with his present corps of assistants, as fast as they come."

On the 12th of January Mr. Hyatt inclosed a translation of an order issued by Gen. Gomez forbidding the grinding of the sugar crop for the years 1897 and 1898. He adds that in that part of Cuba all idea of

making a sugar crop is entirely abandoned, and he says that the stoppage of industries will not halt with this, but that coffee and other agricultural crops fall under the same

other agricultural crops fall under the same ban. Mr. Hyatt also says that he had had

Insurgents Prevent Agricultural Work

hope that after the revocation of the reconcentration order no difficulty would
be found in reinstating American industries,
but that it appears "that all of the benefits
that should have accrued to our citizens are
thwarted by the action of the insurgens,
who refuse to allow them to return to their
sugar, coffee, and other estates." He mens
tions the inhibition on operating the Pompo
mines of manganese ore; and instances sevtions the inhibition on operating the Pompo mines of manganese ore; and instances several sugar estates which are held up and which, he says, are becoming more worthless than before. This letter, like several others of Mr. Hyatt, indicates that important parts are omitted. He closes by saying: "It is beyond the power of my pen to describe the situation in Eastern Cuba. Squalidity, starvation, sickness, and death meet one in all places. Beggars throng our doors and stop us on the streets. The dead in large numbers remain over from day to day in the cemeteries unburied." day in the cemeteries unburied."

#### Begging for Food. In his communication of the 25th of Janua

ary, Mr. Hyatt says: "The military situation is completely overshadowed in importance by starving, struggling masses, whose cry is 'Bread, or I perish.' This Consulate is besieged to an extent that blocks the entrance and greatly retards business. They have heard that the people of the United States are giving funds for their relief, and have not the patience to wait. I could name three Americans here who contribute monthy over \$300 toward feeding the poor, but it is as nothing compared with the people's necessities. Men, women, and children, homeless and almost naked, roam the streets by day, begging of every one they meet, or at every door they pass, and sleeping at night anywhere they can find a place to lie down. If the present death rate should continue there would not be a soul left in the city at the end of five years. For the masses it is speedy help or sure death."

On the 31st of January Mr. Hyatt details some of the particulars of the visit of Capt. Gen. Blanco to Santiago. He mentions econversation he had had with Col. Marsh of Gen Blanco's staff, and says that the latter, appearance and to have the should be sent to the should be sent to the should be a soul leaving sent to him. "I shall be cry is 'Bread, or I perish.' This Consulate Gen. Blanco's staff, and says that the latter, upon leaving, said to him: "I shall be upon leaving, said to him: "I shall be at all times most happy to use whatever influence I may have with Gen. Blanco in securing a favorable solution of any matters that you may desire to present to him." As a result of this interview, Mr. Hyatt secured the release from customs duties of a quantity of quinine then in the port and an order releasing all future consignments of this medicine. this medicine.

#### Atrocities by Insurgents. In this communication Mr. Hyatt men-

tions the destruction of a railroad train by dynamite bombs near Santiago at the time of Gen. Blanco's visit, saying that it was believed that the insurgents were responsi ble for the destruction, because they believed Gen. Blanco to be on the train. Two cars were shivered in atoms, five passengers were killed outright, and twenty-two badly wounded.

Mr. Hyatt writes on the 1st of February last as follows: "The era of good feeling is passing away, while bitter words and cruel acts are again coming to the front. Those engaged in works of mercy are denounced for keeping alive a tribe that ought to be dead, but it cannot be said there is no excession hard independent.

for keeping alive a tribe that ought to be dead, but it cannot be said there is no excuse for harsh judgment. The stoppage of all agricultural pursuits and the blowing up of cars containing innocent people cannot be justified even under the guise of war. Extremists of both sides seem able to dominate the sentiments of their respective parties, while a deep feeling of personal hatred pervades their breasts.

"Gen. Blanco's mild and humane policy meets with but a feeble response from his own followers; while the insurgents laugh at the old man who throws sods and grass instead of stones. Autonomy is already a dead issue, while buying insurgent leaders thus far is not a marked success, the insurgent Generals having already imprisoned several officers suspected of venality." Mr. Hyatt in this letter again quotes Col Marsh, attributing to him the following sentiment:

"Spain falls to comprehend that Cuba has, as it were, two mothers, a political one, which is

"Spain fails to comprehend that Cuba has, as it were, two mothers, a political one, which is Spain; a commercial one, which is the United States, and the political mother fails to see that the commercial mother has any rights, while the commercial mother cannot shake off her responsibility, for God has made them next-door neighbors." I do not believe that the Western Continent has ever witnessed death by starvation equal to that which now exists in Eastern Cuba." Arrival of American Relief Supplies On Feb. 15 Mr. Hyatt reports the first arrival of relief from the United States, which came in the shape of medicines. The people seemed especially pleased to receive quinine, and he says that to nearly every family this medicine was as acceptable as gold. He says that all classes, including the physicians, the church digni-taries, and the ladies of the city, joined in its distribution among the indigent sick. He says that, with the free use of quinine the death rate of the city fell 20 per cent the first week, and he adds that because of

death rate of the city fell 20 per cent the first week, and he adds that because of the good effeots of this medicine, American residents have received a decided boom. The doctors found after a little experience that it only required about one-fifth of the amount of American medicine to break a fever which was required of the quimina received before it was used.

On Feb. 25 Mr, Hyatt reported the particulars of the four days' distribution of food supplies received from the United States. The rations were issued in the court attached to the Consulate, the people being admitted by the police through a carriage driveway. "As I write," he says, "the street is blocked by the hungry throng for nearly a square above and below the entrance. I have requested the police to admit the most delicate and feeble first, as many of them are unable to stand very long in such a crowd." He estimated at that time that there were 18,000 people in that city needing relief. He says that thirty of the best laddes of the city divided the city into fifteen districts, issuing ration tickets according to the number of persons in each house, a week's rations being issued to each person receiving a ticket. On the first day rations were issued to 879 persons, and for the entire four days under consideration to 3,008. He also gave moderate quanties of supplies to the charitable institutions of the city and towns near by.

In the last communication of the series from Mr. Hyatt, dated March 24 last, he says: "Property holders, without distinction of nationality, and with few exceptions, strongly desire annexation, having but little hope of a stable Government under view with regret the indifference, nay, the repugnance of the American people to such a union, and still hope that a combination of circumstances will yet bring it about, but such a move would not be popular among the masses." Referring to the primary election held on the previous Sunday to elect officers to hold an election on the 27th of the same month, Mr. Hyatt says that no one se the good effects of this medicine, American residents have received a decided boom. The

# AT SAGUA LA GRANDE.

Vice Consul Jova Sees No Hope for the Plans of Autonomists.

It may have been a personal matter against Mr. Rigney."

John F. Jova, Vice Consul at Sagua la Grande, under date of Nov. 11, 1897, gives his views of the autonomist policy promised by Spain. He takes strong grounds against it, saying that an autonomist party in that district could not exist. After giving his reasons, he says: "It is hard to see in what way Spain is going to establish this new way Spain is going to establish this new system. It will always be without a stable foundation, without a basis and maintained by a very infirm, insignificant auxiliary. In the meantime the concentrados, the majority innocent persons who had no more aspirations than to till their little farms, continue perishing. It is impossible to describe the extent and intensity of such tremendous conferings of such injustions, unjust and the extent and intensity of such tremendous suffering; of such iniquitous, unjust, and sinful inquisition, to annihilate thousands of women and children. If this Godless combination could be accurately represented it would seem an exaggeration induced by stirred fellow feeling with sensibility of heart. Moving among the unceasing crowd of famished beggars, one can scarcely do more than commiserate the undeserved misfortunes. No history in the world, ancient or modern, saw an instance of this frightful, dreadful suffering. Perhaps civilization has not seen its like. In conclusion I beg to state, in my humble judgment the efforts toward the enforcement of the reform of autonomy will prove altogether fu-

form of autonomy will prove altogether fu-tile."