

16 January 1895, 1

TOOK ARMS BY THOUSANDS

Developments in the Seizure
of the Lagonda.

CAVALRY ARMS FOR CUBA

Cases on the Yacht for the Pat-
riots of the Evergreen Isle.

MANTELL AND MIRANDI MISSING

They Are Not in Jacksonville or
Fernandina, and Everyone is
Asking Where Are They.

FERNANDINA, Fla., January 16.—The condition of affairs remains about the same in the case of the yacht Lagonda and the arms which were turned over to the custom-house officers.

Mr. Borden was seen today shortly after the mail arrived, and after he had seen the accounts of the papers. He flatly denies that the arms, which he supposed to be merchandise, were ever concealed by him. On their arrival in Fernandina they were loaded in cars, as other freight would be, and moved to his warehouse and stored there by laborers in the open daylight and no secret was ever made of it.

Nothing has been heard of Mr. Jose Mantell and his friend, and they have not as yet returned to Fernandina.

The warehouse in which the arms are stored is still under guard by the custom-house officials. United States Inspector Anderson left for Jacksonville today.

What Those Cubans Say.

"The seizure of those arms and ammunition cripples you, doesn't it?" asked a Times-Union reporter of a well known Cuban Patriot yesterday.

"Cripples us?" and the "Patriot" took a deep inhalation of a rag cigarette, elevated his face and blew a ring of smoke upward. Then he smiled—knocking off the ashes from the cigarette, he exclaimed: "Why, man, we have lost maybe \$10,000, but we have in our American treasury \$500,000. We were not fools enough to start a movement for freedom with \$10,000, especially after our experience with unmaturing plans of the past. We not only have money sufficient to arm 50,000 men, 11,000 fighting machines, but to feed them for a long time as well. I was one who held out for ten years against Cuban authority. Then our men were mostly equipped with machettes—big cane knives. Few had guns and none horses.

"I will tell you something else. Perhaps it will startle you. Watch Cuba. One yacht has been captured. An Uncle Sam has captured one yacht how many do you think have gotten through and how many more do you think will get through?"

"That sarcasm is a sad commentary upon the vigilance of Uncle Sam, isn't it?"

"No, not that. But governments are ponderous affairs and it takes much machinery even to open their eyes. Mark what I tell you, watch Cuba. We are determined for her to be free and she shall be free."

"But where do you get all this money?"

The Beauty of It.

"That's the beauty of it. We have in this country thousands upon thousands of Cubans. Almost all of them have been driven from Cuba by tyranny—unbearable laws, unjust and exorbitant taxation. Every man of them works and dreams of Cuba's freedom. When I say work, I mean "work." It will astonish you, no doubt, to know that patriotism burns in their breasts so fiercely that they actually deprive themselves of the necessaries of life to contribute to the fund of freedom. Every man among them sets apart the proceeds of one day's labor each month for Cuba's cause. If he makes \$4, he contributes \$4. If he makes \$1, he contributes \$1, and, let me tell you, he is glad to do it.

"The Cubans are organized. In every city where there are fifty or more Cuban workmen General Jose Marti, that noble Patriot whose greatest ambition is to lead a successful revolution and overthrow the Spanish rulers of our fair island, has organized a revolutionary society.

"In Key West there are about seventy of these societies, in Tampa about seventy-five; in Ocala, ten or twelve; in Jacksonville, two, and in New Orleans and New York many more. Those in Key West are well drilled, and, if supplied with arms and transported to Havana, would make the troops of the captain-general wonder where the despised Cubans had learned to handle the implements of warfare.

Drill Every Week.

"Every week several companies from the different societies are drilled in the tactics of the regular army of the United States. There are not enough arms to supply all of them, but those they have are passed from one society to another. In Tampa these drills have been started, and it will only be a short while until every Cuban in the United States capable of bearing arms will be able to respond to the call whenever it shall be made, and will show the Spanish soldiers that they no longer fight with the machette.

"For ten long years the last revolution lasted, and with the machette as their sole weapon, the Cubans defied their oppressors. Little bands hid in the mountains and would rush out on a troop of horsemen and literally hack their way through them. Whenever the Cubans were captured they were not treated as prisoners of war, but were tortured and murdered in cold blood. There are many Cubans in the United States today that have seen their families slain by the Spanish troops. The young men of Cuba will never rest until La Belle Cuba is free. A large number of American sympathizers have offered to join any expedition to Cuba. Many ex-Confederate soldiers in the gulf states are counted upon to aid us.

Ready to Aid.

"In the North there are also large num-

bers who would assist us if a revolution was once started. The great trouble is in getting the Cubans in Cuba organized. While in this country the Cubans are organized, in Cuba only a few in the mountains have had any opportunity to learn the use of firearms and military tactics. They are closely watched by the Spanish authorities and if any are found with arms they are at once thrown into prison and frequently kept there for months without trial.

"The few cases of arms seized on the Lagonda and in the warehouse in Fernandina were evidently only to be used for drilling the natives.

"When the revolution does start, you newspaper men will have something to write about. There is going to be something of an interesting nature going to happen before long in connection with this affair. Watch Cuba," and the Patriot started off in the direction of a certain residence where it was rumored a meeting of a few prominent Cubans was being held.

United States District Attorney Frank Clark returned yesterday from Fernandina, where he has been to investigate the seizure of the yacht Lagonda and the finding of over 100 cases of arms supposed to be for the fitting out of a Cuban revolutionary expedition.

No Warrant.

Nothing new developed except what appeared in yesterday's Times-Union while Mr. Clark was in Fernandina, and no warrants have been issued for the arrest of N. B. Borden, supposed to be the agent of the revolutionists or, more properly, filibusters. The custom officials in Fernandina are wondering what has become of the two Spanish gentlemen, Senors Mantell and Mirandi, and the United States court officials here are on a still hunt trying to locate them. As stated in the Times-Union there is good reason to believe that they were in Jacksonville as late as 11 o'clock Monday night, although they left their hotel on Sunday with the avowed intention of returning to Fernandina that evening.

So certain is it that Mantell and Mirandi were in the city all day Monday that a guard, or rather detectives, was placed on watch at the residence of a well-known Cuban family to follow them if they left the house. They did not leave the house after 11 o'clock Monday night unless they gave the detectives the slip.

From a gentleman who knows Senor Jose Marti, leader of the Cuban societies in this country, and who saw Senor Mirandi last Sunday, it is learned that there is no possibility of Mirandi being Marti.

Here Months Ago.

Two months ago a young Spanish gentleman was in this city with a party of friends, and several who saw him think that he answers the description given of young Mantell.

There appears to be no reason for Mantell and Mirandi keeping secreted, as there have been no warrants issued for their arrest.

District Attorney Frank Clark says that he has received no information in regard to J. Emmet Wolfe, of Pensacola, United States district attorney for the Northern district of Florida, being directed to go to Fernandina to investigate the affair, and thinks that the Washington corre-

spondents were mistaken as they doubtless thought that Fernandina was in the Northern district instead of the Southern.

Mr. Clark intended to leave for New Orleans yesterday to represent the government in the cases of the forty Cubans charged with violating the contract labor law, which case was appealed from Judge Locke's decision at Key West, but since the Fernandina filibustering case has come up he has decided to remain here until Monday to await developments.

Mr. Buckman, the newly appointed assistant district attorney, is also investigating the case, and will represent the government if anything develops after Mr. Clark goes to New Orleans.

Back From Fernandina.

Major Anderson, of this city, special agent of the United States treasury department, returned from Fernandina last night. He says that the customs and treasury officials have done about all that can be done in the filibuster matter at present and that the case has practically been transferred to the department of justice—in other words, that the United States district attorney, Hon. Frank Clark, has the thing in his hands now, and that it is the business of the courts to proceed with the investigation from this point. The court officials here are said to be awaiting the receipt of specific orders from Washington.

"When I reached Fernandina, Sunday night," said Major Anderson, "and found that Mantell and Mirandi had left there for Jacksonville, I wired United States Marshal McKay to arrest them, and this is the reason, I presume, why a watch was kept last night on the residences of several prominent Cuban gentlemen in this city. It is my opinion that the two Cubans, or Spaniards, who were engineering this affair in Fernandina last week, are now in Jacksonville. They explained to Mr. Borden, before leaving him on Sunday, that they were coming over here for the purpose of getting more money, and that they should return as soon as they got it. I do not think they would deem it safe to go to Cuba, and that the farther away from insurrectionist centers they keep the better it will be for them.

"Mr. Borden does not appear to me to be as calm and confident and indifferent as he has been represented to be. When I was introduced to him last Monday morning and asked him to go up to his office with me—that I wanted the keys to his warehouse in order to search it for goods which I suspected to be stored in it—he appeared very much 'rattled,' in fact very much as if a dynamite bomb had been exploded under him; but he gathered himself together and, under the plea that he had to see a party off at the train just then, he left me, promising to attend to my request

Continued on fourth page.

TOOK ARMS BY THOUSANDS

Continued from first page.

later on—which he did—after I had shown him and his attorney my authority.

"The goods in Borden's warehouse were chiefly Remington rifles, Winchester repeating rifles, Colt's revolvers—or horse pistols—cartridges, cartridge caps, etc. The rifles had been shipped directly from the factory of the Remington Arms company at Ilion, N. Y., and the other arms and ammunition were direct from the manu-

facturers. I think it had evidently been the intention of the insurrectionists to load the bulk of these munitions of war onto the Baruoca, the carrying capacity of the Lagonda being very limited—not over twenty-five cases, I should say, when all her coal, water and other necessary stores were aboard. What portion of the munitions was taken on by the yacht was placed aboard of her as she lay at Borden's wharf. It is thought that about ten cases were thrown overboard, but less than half of these have been recovered so far. I am told that when the suspicions of Captain Griffin were aroused and the Spaniards saw that the jig was up with them, both he and his passengers became very much alarmed and began dumping their suspicious-looking stores into the harbor—the two Spaniards being ready to throw over everything, including even the coal. It is said also that Mr. Borden was on board the yacht at this time, and assisted in the dumping, but he denies all knowledge of it. How far he is actually implicated in the plot—if at all—it is difficult to determine. Of course he disclaims any intention of violating the neutrality laws of the United States, and the fact that cases of arms knapsacks, etc., were shipped to Fernandina while he was still absent at the North and were received and stored here innocently by Borden's brother, strengthens his position somewhat.

"If I had been apprised of this thing last Friday, it would have been my plan to have permitted the Lagonda to put to sea and then to have allowed the Baruoca to take on her contraband cargo there in Fernandina. We could easily have overhauled the yacht with a government cutter and then the supply steamer could have been seized, too. Now she is out of the government's jurisdiction and her owners canceled her charter today, I understand. As to the Lagonda being released on a bond from her owners, I hear of no such negotiations—in fact, the collector of customs has no authority to accept such security. The release of the Lagonda may be a long way in the future."

Mr. Huanu Talks.

Mr. J. A. Huanu, the well known business man on Bay street, confirms the report that detectives were watching his house Monday afternoon and night. "I did not recognize the men," he says, "but I know there were at least two of them who kept an eye on it for twenty-four hours. Besides this two or three strange men called at the front door and asked trivial questions of my wife and other members of my household—all, apparently, with a view to getting a glimpse of the interior of the house."

"Well, Mr. Huanu," was asked, "are Benora Mantell and Mirandi concealed in your house?"

"I decline to say," was the reply. "If the men were here, I would not tell of it; and, if they were not, I would not say so. But I reserve the right to entertain whomsoever I please in my own house.

Of course, if government officers should demand the release of my guests, I would not be reckless enough to obstruct them—for that would be an offense against the country of my adoption. I am an American citizen and respect the laws of my country. The solicitude of the authorities about this matter is, however, very amusing to me. Of course, my sympathies are with the Patriots, but my

firm conviction is that annexation to the United States is the only solution of the Cuban question. Spain has repeatedly insulted the United States—and it looks now as if she were going to do so again. This country has repeatedly stood in the way of Cuban independence, and it always will, I guess. Again I say, annexation is the only solution."

Mr. Huanu's father, Dr. Joseph Hypolitus Huanu-Cadarette, was for many years, prior to 1869, the surgeon-general of the Spanish army in Cuba, and the old doctor is still living at an advanced age in this city. His son, J. A., was educated in this country about thirty-five years ago and took up his residence in Cuba again in 1868. In January, 1869, he was implicated in the revolution of that year—though not as an active participant—and in company with his brother-in-law, Henry Pritot, was confined in Castle Moro at Havana for a long time. His father's influence finally secured the release of both, although they were in imminent danger of execution at one time, and then they both came to this country. "I shook the dust of Cuba from my feet twenty-six years ago," said Mr. Huanu, "and have never been back there since."

The Amadis in Custody.

SAVANNAH, Ga., January 16.—The steam yacht Amadis, which the government officials have been so anxious to locate for some days past, is now lying snugly alongside the United States revenue cutter Houtwell, in the Savannah river. The Amadis passed Tybee at 6 o'clock this afternoon and steamed boldly up the river. The government officials were awaiting her arrival. When she arrived opposite the custom house she was boarded by the boarding officer, who ordered her, according to instructions, to drop anchor alongside the Houtwell, which was done.

Collector of Customs Beckwith and Special Agents Macatee and Harrison went aboard at once. The yacht's papers were examined and found to be correct. A search was made for arms and other contraband goods, but nothing whatever of a compromising nature was found. The yacht was pretty well out of coal and provisions, on account of her long trip down.

Captain Weed and his officers seemed very much surprised at the action of the government officials and professed entire ignorance of any knowledge of any sinister designs on the part of the charterers of the yacht. They expected to meet Borden and Mantell at Savannah, they said, where they would receive further instructions. They expected to go from here on a cruise down the Florida coast and among the West India islands.

Collector Beckwith is satisfied that Captain Weed's statements are true and that he has no connection with any conspiracy.

Captain Weed said that he understood that the yacht was chartered for a pleasure cruise and that, if she proved satisfactory, the Mantells would purchase her. He had special instructions from the owner, Mr. Kimball, of Cleveland, O., not to allow any contraband goods to go aboard the vessel. Captain Weed seemed very much surprised when he heard of the seizure of goods on board the Lagonda at Fernandina, and hurried to purchase a newspaper to learn the particulars.

Captain Weed, his mate and the first

THE FLORIDA TIMES-UNION
JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

16 January 1895, 4

engineer are from Rockland, Me. The other seven members of the crew are all foreigners and were brought to Rockland from New York by Borden and Mantell. The yacht will probably be allowed to return to New York in a day or two.

Not Serious, They Say.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 15.—At the treasury department, today, the alleged expedition of the Haracoa, the Amadis and the Lagonda to some southern country, with alleged arms aboard, is not considered seriously. None of these vessels has been "seized," though one or two of them have been unofficially detained at Fernandina, Fla., to await further examination of the suspicious circumstances. It is probable that, after today, all the vessels will proceed on their way without further molestation by the federal authorities.