

CARTRIDGES HID IN TALLOW

DE LA COVA'S SHIPMENTS MAY HAVE WRECKED WARD LINERS.

A Franklin Street Packer of Goods for Shipping Arrested at the Instance of an Official of the Line—Ammunition in Nine Barrels Found on the Yumuri—The Unaccountable Destruction of the City of Alexandria and Seneca.

An arrest which was made yesterday, at the instance of W. H. T. Hughes of the New-York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company—the Ward Line—may serve to throw some light on a series of unaccountable disasters which have befallen vessels of that line. The prisoner is Victor De la Cova of 139-141 Franklin Street.

The arrest was made yesterday afternoon by Deputy United States Marshal Bostwick, on the complaint of Mr. Hughes, who charges De la Cova with an unlawful shipment of cartridges on the company's steamship Yumuri, which cleared for Havana with her explosive freight on board last August. The complainant asserts that nine barrels of tallow were received for shipment on the Yumuri, and that in each was concealed a large number of cartridges. The barrels were marked with the initials "H. B.," and were numbered from 325 to 333, inclusive. It is supposed that the cartridges were for the use of insurgents.

The sections of the United States statutes that are alleged to have been violated provide that explosives must be duly declared by the shipper, and that the explosive substances must be placed in compartments separate from the other freight. There is a penalty of fine and imprisonment attached to the infraction of the law.

Mr. Hughes, after De la Cova's arrest, was asked his opinion as to the destruction of Ward Line vessels. He refused to talk, saying the United States District Attorney had requested him to make no statement.

De la Cova, who is a packer of goods for shipment, also refused to make a statement.

The prisoner, who lives at 545 Macon Street, Brooklyn, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Shields, and was admitted to bail. His examination was set for next Thursday, at 2 P. M.

It is possible that the investigation may give some hint as to how the steamship City of Alexandria came to be wrecked by a mysterious explosion at sea, on the night of Nov. 1, 1893, and which has so far been relegated to conjecture. The inquiry may also explain the cause of a disastrous fire which came near wrecking the Seneca, in Havana Harbor, a short time afterward. No satisfactory explanation of either has yet been had. The explosion which wrecked the City of Alexandria caused the death of eleven members of that vessel's crew.

No loss of life attended the Seneca disaster, but the fire, the origin of which has yet to be explained, gained such headway that it was found necessary to scuttle the vessel to prevent her total destruction.

The company had had considerable trouble with the longshoremen here, and it was at first thought that the fires were the result of some plot on the part of the longshoremen. There was no evidence to sustain that view, however, and the theory was abandoned.