

THE WEST INDIES.

ARRIVAL OF THE HAVANA STEAMSHIP EAGLE.

The steamship *Eagle*, which left Havana on Nov. 6, reached this port yesterday. Purser HEMPSHAW has our thanks for the prompt delivery of our letters and papers.

CUBA.

The Situation—Bombardment Threats—A Look Ahead—New-York to be Bombarded—Rodas Traveling—Interviews with Subordinates—Cavada Again—General Destruction—Dr. Baxeres Recants—Big Swindles—War News.

From Our Own Correspondent.

HAVANA, Saturday, Nov. 6, 1899.

The state of affairs in this island is, to say the least, more unsettled than it has been for the past six months. There is, undoubtedly, less excitement among the masses and more confidence in the Cities of Havana, Matanzas and Cardenas, but the remainder of the island is in a state of ferment, not even excepting the Vuolta Abajo region. In order to prevent uprisings in the districts which yet remain loyal it is necessary to maintain a large armed force. If, as is confidently asserted by the Spaniards, there is no danger of an outbreak, why are these volunteers, so brimful of enthusiasm, not allowed to go to the field and aid the soldiers to fight? They have offered their services in Havana, but would they go forth, and if so, how many of them? A gentleman belonging to the volunteer corps informed your correspondent that he would not go; that they, the volunteers, had been organized to protect the city, and that it was the business of the soldiers to do the fighting; another gentleman said that at least seven hundred men of his battalion would be on hand to go to the front. The volunteers in such localities of the interior where fighting has occurred, have done their share, and excepting an odd proclivity to consider every man a rank insurgent and kill him, have behaved exceedingly well. The grand obstacle against executing any movements of importance has been the want of tact, or rather a want of caution, among the officers of the troops and especially of the volunteers, who cannot keep an order received to themselves, but must make it public by telling it to a few of their friends, who in turn repeat it to the public. In this respect they are like a certain hanger on and half member of the Cuban Junta in New-York, who, in order to give himself a like importance, virtually acted as an informer of the Spanish Government, going about and telling his friends (b) confidentially, what the Junta was driving at.

There is a storm brewing, but when and where it will burst is impossible to tell. The Spaniards are anxiously awaiting the opening of Congress, and seeing what action the United States Government will take toward the Spaniards in recognizing or in refusing to recognize the Cubans as belligerents. The general opinion is that the United States will not recognize the Cubans, and they produce some very strong and well-founded reasons for saying so, namely, that the Cubans have no seaport, no capital, no regularly-organized army or Government, and are losing ground instead of making headway. The Spaniards say that if only a commission of the House or Senate would come here and look at things in their true light, very little would be said afterward in favor of the Cubans in New-York. This is their opinion, but said commission would also see a great many things under Spanish rule sufficient to make them entertain the idea that many of the Spanish assertions are mere bombast, and that a Cuban well armed and well trained will fight as well as a Spaniard under the same condition.

NEW-YORK BOMBARDED.

The arrival of two and the expected arrival of several more Spanish frigates has given rise to the report that said ships, in the event of Congress recognizing the Cubans, would proceed immediately to New-York and bombard the City. The truth of the matter is, that Spain is preparing for an emergency, and that the ships will go to New-York at an early day. The wooden frigate *Lealtad* is to go to the docks, as she is leaking badly around the screw. The iron-clad *Victoria* has her bottom full of barnacles, which impede her running qualities, and perhaps the *Gerona* on her return to Spain will need attention, too. That the Spaniards would not fear a war with the United States is certain; but the Spanish Government does. Ten applications to fit out cruisers were made, when the *Hornet* went to sea, and in case of a war there is little doubt but that numerous corsairs would be fitted out in Spanish ports.

RODAS TRAVELING.

On Thursday morning the citizens of Havana were startled out of their propriety on learning that the Captain-General had quietly left the city on the previous evening for Cienfuegos, via the Batallano Railroad, accompanied by his Secretary, staff and about thirty body guards, commanded by Captain JOSE OLASO, a Cuban. Many conjectures have been made as to the purpose of this trip, but the only true solution is, that matters in the Cinco Villas look very queer, notwithstanding the daily telegrams each announcing the killing of two or three insurgents. LESCA could not well leave, and RODAS wished to look into matters himself, and cause a little enthusiasm among the ultras. From Cienfuegos RODAS will go to Manzanillo, to confer with VALMASEDA, and he may, perhaps, visit Santiago de Cuba, and return by the North Coast route. RODAS intends to inaugurate a vigorous campaign against the Cubans, and stake all, as he is well aware that, unless he does something decisive within the next few weeks, serious complications will arise, resulting in the destruction of many plantations. This is proven by a translation of the following important order issued by the Cuban General CAVADA:

HEADQUARTERS DIVISION,)
CIENFUEGOS, Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1899.)
Citizen Captain Gonzalez:

By receipt of yours of the 25th of last month I am informed that conformably to instructions given you by the Supreme Government, you have destroyed the Divertido sugar estate and carried off the hands belonging thereto, of whom fourteen Chinese and five negroes have been sent to these headquarters. You did not, in your official report, inform me of the total number of persons belonging to the estate, which you will please do for my guidance. It is necessary you should destroy without delay the Marañon estate before it is occupied by an armed force. This is peremptory. I have notified Captain ACEVEDO to assist you should you need his services. The following named estates must be burned forthwith. Some are beyond your reach. You will direct your operations against those where your efforts may prove successful. Names of estates, viz.: Santa Isabel, Santa Teresa, Negrito, Conchita, Santa Rosa, La, Loario, Flora, Muerto, Harniguero, Vista Alegre, Vista Hermosa, Caridad, San Nicolas, San Antonio, San José, Manuelita, San Luis, Santa Marta, California, Santa Rosa, Angelita, San Antonio de Lamba. The estates belonging to loyal Cubans should be left till the time at which their destruction may become a necessity. You will adhere to the above indications. News from the eastern part of the island and from the United States is favorable, and all that can be desired. Forward me the lists of names of men composing the companies under your command, as Government is paying the army, and I am anxious our division should receive their pay as early as possible. I have been told the horse you gave me died at Gallaraza, for which I am sorry, as I needed him much. I will write you more at leisure to-morrow.

Let this and analogous orders be once carried out and many Spaniards, who have anything to lose, will think twice before committing any acts which may draw on them the vengeance of the Cubans, while many lukewarm Cubans will supply the insurgent army, out of fear if not out of patriotism.

Regarding other matters, RODAS has until now continued to act in a very honest and just manner. RAFAEL ROSSI, the Capitan de Partido of San José, was ordered to investigate a certain political question, where the QUINTERO family and others, of Taruco, were accused, and did so in a very partial manner, and attempted to injure the family. The Captain-General heard of it, dismissed the Captain, and instituted proceedings against him. This functionary is one of the many who have acted, and are still acting, in the same manner. There are some honest men among them who won't accept a bribe, but it is very hard to meet such.

DR. BAXERES,

the Spanish doctor who caused a disturbance last Saturday night at the Casino Espanol, by merely mentioning the word autonomy, has since been arrested and lodged in jail, preparatory to

being sent to Spain. This the good doctor does not like, and he has issued a card asserting his ultra-patriotism, and that he was never in favor of conceding autonomy to Cuba, which autonomy would be its utter ruin. (The Cubans, I may say, are perfectly willing to be ruled in this manner.) He adds, that has always sustained the entity of the nation. This may lead to his release but the doctor's influence is gone.

THE COMING CROP

presents a very fine appearance, and many planters, in favored localities, have already commenced grinding. If the insurgents do not burn the cane a very heavy crop may be expected, the result depending entirely on the political status of the island. Some planters have succeeded in receiving advances on their crop, which is a great evidence in favor of the future of Cuba.

BIG SWINDLES.

The frauds discovered in the Havana Custom House are the theme of general comment. This fact is very noticeable, when we take into account that with very few exceptions the entire commerce of the island has always been in a close league with the Government officials, to defraud the State of its legitimate revenues. The merchants and Custom House officers waxed fat, the people paid high prices, and the Government was cheated. It is understood that on an average about seven millions of dollars were annually divided between the importers and revenue officers in the City of Havana alone. Custom House officers, with a salary of \$50 a month, lived at the rate of ten thousand a year, and saved money besides. Every year a number of inspectors retired to Spain with amounts varying from \$40,000 to \$75,000, earned in a space of time not exceeding two years at the utmost. Boxes which were represented at the bonded warehouse to contain articles of but trifling value, were found to contain silks and woollens of the costliest description. The house of SHARFENBERG, TOIME & Co. paid on one consignment alone a difference of over \$9,000 duty between the actual value and that manifested by them. Other cases of the same nature have transpired, while thousands of packages supposed to exist in said warehouses have been quietly removed without paying anything to the Government. The whole affair is a grand swindle, and the Government has placed itself on a level with the smugglers by issuing such orders and enacting such conditions as the following case discloses. Mr. MORRISON purchased some time ago eight cases of silks from a Spanish house, said house stating that they were stored in the Custom House and producing the receipt of the guarda almacén of storekeeper to that effect, which was transferred to the purchaser. On calling at the Custom House for his merchandise, he only found four instead of eight cases. Now comes a sample of how we do things in Cuba. The Administrator of Customs exacts not only the duty on the four but on the whole eight cases, and, in addition, says the Government is not liable to be sued for any damages, or to account for the missing four cases. Mr. MORRISON, however, may sue the storekeeper, a man placed there by the Government, who left his position a long time ago and now resides in Spain. As, notwithstanding the commission of merchants, many rascalities are still committed, Mr. MORRISON will be compelled to pay duties to a Government which has stolen his property from him, and as this is not a swindle against the Treasury, but a swindle of the Treasury against a merchant, there is no redress.

WAR NEWS—SANTIAGO DE CUBA.

General VALMASEDA is at Santiago de Cuba awaiting reinforcements. Owing to the cool weather sickness is not so fatal in this jurisdiction as during the past Summer months, when cholera and vomito were rampant.

NOVEITAS.

The population of Nuevitas has increased very much during the past season by reason of loyal people flocking in to the place from sections of the country threatened by the rebel forces. The large number of troops along the line of the Nuevitas and Puerto Principe Railroad have secured the communication so that trains run regularly.

PUERTO PRINCIPE.

In Puerto Principe, on the 25th of last month, some military and religious ceremonies took place, very Spanish in their nature. A newly-built fort, one of several designed for the better defence of the city, was named, or baptized as the Spaniards have it. There were present, among others, General PUELLO, commanding that district, with his staff, the members of the Supreme Court and many of the officers of the line regiments stationed in the city, as well as those belonging to the various volunteer organizations then in the city. The name given is Fort Rodas.

MISCELLANEOUS.

During one of the last days of October, near Punta Pilon, a skirmish took place between an insurgent force 200 strong and eighty Spaniards. The rebels were well mounted and armed with Remington guns. The fight lasted several hours, resulting in the flight of the Cubans, leaving ten dead. The Spaniards sustained no loss. Colonel ISQUIERDO has been appointed *ad interim* Governor of Sancti Spiritus during the sickness of the regular Governor, General GONZALES. A good deal has been said in these days regarding a movement put on foot for surrounding *La Ciénega de Zapata* by land and by sea. *La Ciénega de Zapata* is a large extent of timbered, marshy country west of Cienfuegos, where it is said some 2,000 negroes and Chinamen have their headquarters since the failure of the rising at Yaguay Grande, not far distant. This band is accused of having committed nearly all the damage to property that has occurred in the jurisdictions of Cienfuegos and Colon. A Pole (REDBOLT) commands them. He rose, as report goes, from a country storekeeper to General at one step. No definite news regarding the result of the expeditions has been made public in this city, though it is thought by many the birds will have flown by some of the numerous avenues of escape from the noted swamper the troops may have penetrated to the depths of the morass. In Cienfuegos a volunteer belonging to the battalion Cazadores de Valmaseda, recently organized in this city and sent to the seat of war, was shot upon the arrival of the regiment *en route* from Havana to the seat of action, by orders from this city, it having become known to the authorities here that the man in question had enlisted by order of CESPEDES, for the purpose of killing General VALMASEDA. It is said documentary proof exists to corroborate the above. The Secret Police continues to make arrests, and the spy system is general. It is reported that there are about five hundred paid and ten times that number of voluntary spies in Havana alone. The former have been principally recruited from the dregs of the population, every house of prostitution having at least furnished one. A goodly number of the commercial houses of Havana have signed an agreement binding themselves mutually to charge hereafter 2½ per cent. commission on the total amount of freight of vessels consigned to them, even though a part or all of the cargo may be consigned to the same house as the vessel. Should the cargo belong to the owner of the vessel, or should the vessel arrive here with a charter for a round trip, then charging the above commission will be optional with the consignees.

QUASIMODO.

HAYTI.

Salnavé Before Jacmel—Brice Marching on Port-au-Prince.

From Our Own Correspondent.

JACMEL, Sunday, Oct. 24, 1899.

We have no news from Port-au-Prince. The army of SALNAVE, under General CHEVALIER, had been besieging this town during the last fortnight, but they have retreated to Leogane, to stop the advance of the revolutionary General BRICE, who is marching on Port-au-Prince. General Brice has captured the town of Miragoane.

ST. DOMINGO.

Inaction of the Revolutionists—Dependence on the French Loan—General Misery.

From Our Own Correspondent.

PUERTO PLATA, Monday, Oct. 25, 1899.

Nothing new to report from this Republic. The Revolutionists under General CABRAL continue inactive near Azua. Great misery exists

all over the country. The Government depended on the French loan for resources, but it proved a complete failure in the European markets. It is positively asserted that as soon as Congress meets in Washington President BAEZ will submit the sale of the Bay of Samana to the United States.

PORTO RICO.

The Crop—Religious Liberty Proclaimed—Health of the Island.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ST. JUAN, Thursday, Oct. 28, 1899.

The prospects of next year's crop are satisfactory. The coffee crop promises to turn out better in quality and quantity, and that of sugar bids to be over the average of the three last. In politics the only news of importance is a decree from the Minister of Foreign Affairs, published in the official *Gazette* of this island, and consequently already in force, establishing complete religious liberty in the Spanish Antilles. All the appointments under Government are open to all Spanish subjects without regard to their religion. The health of the island continues good.