

Military Operations for the Winter Season Opened.

Firing the Sugar Plantations by the Insurgents.

How the Operation Is To Be Carried Out.

The steamship Eagle, Captain Greene, from Havana the 6th, arrived at this port yesterday. She brings latest mail dates. Purser Hempstead will accept our thanks for favors received.

Opening of the Fall Campaign—Land and Sea Attack on the Cienega de Zapata—De Rodas Gone to Cienfuegos—A Determined Effort to Put Down the Insurrection—Intercepted Documents—The Burning of Estates—Incendiaries to be Shot—Methods of Setting Fire to the Cane—Suffering Within Insurgent Lines.

HAVANA, Nov. 6, 1899.

Under the energetic régime of General de Rodas active measures are being inaugurated to demonstrate his oft-times repeated announcement that the insurrection in this island is near its termination. On Thursday evening his Excellency, in company with his secretary and certain members of his staff, left the capital for Cienfuegos to take personal cognizance of the operations about commencing in that vicinity. This visit has been long in contemplation, but duties connected with the general administration here have compelled its postponement until the present. Simultaneous with his departure is made known through the press that a determined effort is to be made to clear out the Cienega de Zapata, which, as will be seen by a glance at the map, comprises the western part of the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos. As its name indicates, this locality comprises a low, swampy wilderness. It is uninhabited and very difficult of passage; indeed, at certain seasons, this is entirely impracticable. It has quite a long extent of sea coast, and in the bay or cove of Cochinos light draught vessels can enter and land their cargoes and passengers without difficulty. There have been, at various times, reports of landings there, and though none of them have been well authenticated its convenience of access and the ease with which supplies can be placed beyond the reach of the Spanish troops render them probable. In the almost impenetrable fastnesses to be found there, the insurgents, habituated to the deadly climate, have remained in perfect safety and unmolested, save in one instance, when a party of them were said to be surrounded by a detachment of the troops known as "Chapelgorris," and great results were promised, concerning which we afterwards heard nothing. They are said to number about 2,000 and are under the command of General Rolo, known as El Polaco, the Pole. They are mostly made up of Chinese and negroes, as say the Spanish reports.

The attack upon them will be made both by sea and land. The forces to operate by sea left Havana a few days since, under command of Colonel Balle, for the Bay of Cochinos. Those by land will occupy the roads leading into the Cienega, and will consist of 160 chapelgorris, which left Cardenas at daylight on Tuesday last, 150 of the Guardia Civil of Colon and Bemba and five companies of the Battalion de Leon, the whole to be under the command of Don Martin Blas, a commandant of tried courage and much experience. Much good is expected to result from the movement, and the Spaniards promise it shall be the beginning of a fast approaching consummation, the entire suppression of the insurrection.

While all operations are being conducted with much secrecy, there are certain indications which lead to the belief that General de Rodas' plan is to drive the insurgents from the more westerly points they now occupy, from the Cinco Villas, Santi Espirito and Remedios, thereby preserving many estates now threatened with destruction, and compel their concentration in Camaguey and points east, where it will be difficult for them to obtain supplies, and enabling the troops to attack large bodies of them. Meanwhile from various points, Mansanilla, Santiago de Cuba, Nuevitas and others, come views of extraordinary activity, showing that a methodized and energetic campaign has been entered upon.

In the light of these preparations and of well known facts touching the revolution here, the fact is patent that the Cuban patriots are about to undergo their severest trial, and that it will require a concentration of all their power and energies both at home and abroad to stand up against the onslaught to be made upon them. Certain documents captured from the insurgents have been published in the *Oficial Gazette* of this city. They go to show the continued activity of the Cubans in carrying out their policy of destroying estates and so weakening the pecuniary power of their enemy. The first is from D. F. Cavada, addressed to Captain José Gonzalez, under date of October 5, and, after commending him for the destruction of the estate Divorido, done in accordance with orders from the supreme government, furnishes him with the following list of estates to be destroyed, which it is important should be done immediately:—

Santa Isabel, de Marsillan; Santa Teresa, de Galdos; Negrito, de Lay; Conchita, de Izuaga; Santa Rosalia, de Lursado; Rosario, de Garria; Flora, de Dorticós; Muerto, de Garria; Horiniguero, de Ponverto; Vista Alegre, de Vergara; Vista Hermosa, de Vives; Caridad, de Jaltabulo; San Nicolas, del Conde Brunet; San Antonio, de Trujillo; San José, de Veguer; Manueleta, de Acer; San Luis, de Montalvo; Santa Marta, de Ruballo; California, de Campillo; Santa Rosa, de Lomba; Angelita, de Argudin; San Antonio, de Lomba, y Torriente, de Pasalodos.

Another letter, signed José Trujillo y Armas, and addressed to some commandant, says:—"The Citizen General Federico Cavada, Chief of the forces in this State (Santi Espirito) has desired me to say to you that it is probable that the owners of estates will anticipate, in everything that is possible, the early grinding, with the object of taking the results out of the country as soon as possible, and he expects, from your authority and vigilance, that as soon as the cane is in proper condition for burning you will cause the destruction of these estates by individuals selected for that purpose."

With the publication of these documents is an order from the Captain General that hereafter all incendiaries apprehended, no matter in what numbers, shall be immediately shot.

The insurgents, in the burning of estates, have adopted the various ingenious methods long used by outlawed negroes and others throughout the West Indies. Certain birds which live in the cane-fields are caught and fire attached to them at a distance from their bodies and they are then let loose. They immediately take refuge in the cane, where they alight for a moment, then fly a short distance and alight again, igniting the dry stalks in half a dozen places before they are reached by the fire. Serpents are also caught, and, with fire attached to them, are loosened to glide among the cane.

News from Cardenas glides that the negroes and Chinamen are leaving some of the estates in that vicinity in large numbers.

Through Spanish sources comes information that the people within the insurgent lines are in a terrible condition, more particularly for want of clothing. Many of the women are almost in a state of nudity and the suffering consequent thereon is very great.

The *Imparcial* of Trinidad, in its issue of the 31st, states that the cholera still continues there. From the 1st to the 31st of October there were 191 deaths, though some were from fevers incidental to the climate. The condition of the atmosphere had caused considerable sickness among the troops. From Cienfuegos we learn of a mutiny among the Guías de Valmesada, which recently left this city. It probably arose out of the fact of their not being sent to join the General after whom they are named, as they were led to expect. One of the soldiers was shot, but no further details are given.

A company of the Guías de Rodas left this city yesterday for Cienfuegos, its departure possibly having some connection with the mutiny mentioned.

The steamer Pelayo arrived here yesterday from several ports on the north side, bringing dates from Puerto Principe to the 3d instant. There is no news of interest. Two ladies had reached that city from the insurgent camps, having made their escape with difficulty. They represent the greatest discontent existing among the insurgents, and the various families are anxious to present themselves to the Spanish authorities.

Several encounters were mentioned, but of no importance.

Expedition Up the Cauto River—Movement to Compel a Concentration of the Insurgents.

MANZANILLO, Oct. 31, 1899.

An expedition has recently been fitted out here to open the navigation of the Cauto river and to supply the troops along its banks with ammunition and provisions. It consists of two coasters, carrying a body of marines and fifty soldiers.

Military operations have commenced in this jurisdiction and vicinity, but as yet we have none of the details. The troops are moving between Balre, Jiguani and Santiago de Cuba with the view of forcing the insurgents to join those on the other side of the Cauto river and in the direction of Puerto Principe.

There are a number of vague reports current here, but they are not credited. Such, for example, as

that General Jordan and other chiefs have abandoned the cause and fled to Jamaica.

The Troops in the Country—Prevalence of Cholera—Bodies Left Unburied—Passports to United States and Jamaica Denied.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Oct. 30, 1899.

The troops are all in the country still, and there is occasional fighting, but nothing of importance.

We have plenty of cholera here and of other diseases, which is not to be wondered at, as about 800 corpses have been thrown into a ditch not far from the city, 100 of which were not half covered. Those carrying the bodies to the cemetery throw them on the side of the road about 200 yards this side of their destination and leave them there. This spot and the cemetery are lower than the city, and though we do not get the scent the effect on the health of the town must be very deleterious.

Passports are refused here for the United States and Jamaica to natives. No foreigner has applied since the new order.