

THE WAR IN THE EASTERN DEPARTMENT.

The Insurgent Position of "Moyote"— Character of Operations—The General Unhealthiness.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Dec. 3, 1892.

Some days since General Valmaseda stated to a meeting of planters that the insurrection would end with the month of November. On the 1st inst. the official paper published a despatch from Colonel Camara, announcing that he had driven all the insurgents from their strongholds and had effected a junction with Colonel Ahren—ergo, the war was over. This is regarded by the Spaniards as a most wonderful fulfilment of prophecy and has raised Valmaseda to honor in his own country. However, there remain unbelieving ones and those who have come to regard "official" and mendacious as synonymous terms. The insurgent position of "Moyote" proper, to obtain which has admittedly cost the Spaniards over 200 in killed and wounded, is a conical hill, about twelve leagues from here, standing alone and commanding an extended view, girt on all sides with dense forest and brush, affording every advantage to the insurgents, whose lines are said to extend seven leagues along its base. In the rear of these, and extending through to Mayari, are vast tracts of uncultivated and even unexplored lands, where 100,000 insurgents might hide away for years, particularly if they had been provident enough to carry cattle thither and clear and plant fields of plantains and yams, which, I am assured, they have done, employing the numerous slaves which they have taken from the estates for that purpose.

The insurgents in Moyote are in great force. There are said to be 6,000 men, commanded by Brigadier Tamayo, who came out in the luckless Grapeshot expedition, and, with several others, aided by Rustan, escaped from the 800 soldiers who were sent against the luckless thirty-five.

In general the Spaniards are making some progress against the insurgents, but with heavy loss. They are only able to advance at all by dint of grape-shot and shell, which they pour into that part of the woods where the fire of the insurrectionists is the hottest. When they come upon an earthwork they shell it till they think the insurgents are sufficiently shaken, and then they charge with the bayonet. Sometimes the insurgents are able to repulse them, but oftener the cannonade obliges them to quit their entrenchments, though not without tumbling over a few artillerymen and firing from all sides on the infantry. The insurgents' fire does not, however, cause the chief destruction to the Spaniards. The wretched treatment accorded the soldiers, who are continually suffering from hunger; the want of an efficient medical staff and the general unhealthiness prevalent are causing fearful losses to the army. Sickness is on the increase. There are between 700 and 800 men in the military hospitals, and sick and wounded are billeted on the estates. Last week seven officers were buried here, and numbers are sick of vomito and other diseases. Cholera is still prevalent in this country, and the smallpox is making fearful ravages.

General Jordan is said to be in the Central Department.