

# CUBA.

**The Fernando Po Prisoners—The Campaign in Cauraguay—Negroes Among the Insurgents—The War on Property of Absentees—Proposed New Tariff on Imports—Insurrection of Volunteers—Release of Passengers of the Lizzie Major.**

HAVANA, April 24, 1899.

The steamer carrying the Fernando Po prisoners found it necessary to put into Porto Rico. The *Gazette* of last evening states that owing to some defect in the machinery, difficult to remedy in the open sea, and fears of an epidemic, upon the certificate of the surgeons, the commander had determined to proceed to the port mentioned. The Captain General of that island had determined in no way to interfere with the destination of the vessel. The article of the *Gazette* closes by saying that the prisoners will go to Fernando Po, and at this moment are sailing in the direction of that island. Our news from the seat of insurrection is more than usually meagre, nor is it probable that any operations of moment are going on, aside from the preparations making for the proposed decisive campaign in Cauraguay. The early part of May is now set down as the time for the complete suppression of the rebellion, and it is stated that during that month Dulce, his work being accomplished, will proceed to Madrid. The impression is that there are no insurgents of any importance save those in the Central Department, and as a large force is now concentrated there it is calculated that a short campaign will end it.

We have information in confirmation of the conditional surrender of 600 insurgents near Cienfuegos, as published in an extra and embodied in my last, and the story is coming to be regarded as a canard—the Cubans say published to cover up some disaster. Fifty-three insurgent prisoners recently arrived here from that city, but neither they nor the force guarding them knew anything of the proposed surrender. Reported successes of the rebels about Trinidad are numerous, but they are evidently without foundation. Your correspondent, writing from there on the 21st, says that about 1,000 rebels appeared in sight of the town last week, but fled before a party of volunteers who went out to attack them.

There are said to be from 30,000 to 40,000 negroes in the insurgent ranks who speak French, having formerly been slaves on the estates of French creoles in the Eastern Department. A letter, couched in ambiguous language, for fear of discovery by the authorities, states that not long since a large band of them were instructed to hold a certain point against an attack by the troops; but in doing so 150 of them were killed.

A Spanish ex-naval officer attached to the insurrection, commissioned by Cespedes, has gone to the United States to take command of a privateer now being fitted out to prey on Spanish commerce.

In anticipation of the landing of expeditions from the States the volunteers of this city are ready to leave by war ships for the coast, with artillery, the moment they are required. The cruiser steamers Marsella and Alicante sailed for Nueviton on the 20th, taking the thousand Catalan volunteers who arrived in the steamer España recently. Their commander, Colonel Tejada, was attacked with vertigo on embarkation and lies dangerously ill. Several of the men were also taken sick and could not go on. On the same day the battalion of negro mobilized volunteers embarked on the Barcelona for the same place, previously passing in review before the palace and loudly cheering General Dulce. They are commanded by Colonel Yoller y Lersundi, ex-Chief of Police. The Cadiz mail steamer Isla de Cuba arrived on the 21st with 1,017 Andalusian and Madrid infantry, including a number of chasseurs, all miserably clad and many sick among them.

The war on the property of absentees continues with unabated vigor, and large properties have already been embargoed. The *Gazette* of last evening contains a decree stating that the executive power of the nation has determined that the proceeds of the properties of the insurgents and their accomplices, already sequestered or hereafter to be so, shall be applied to the expenses of the war. A supplementary circular has also been published, dated the 2nd, stating that, to avoid misunderstanding, the parties named in the sequestration decree are those abroad and not others remaining in the island who bear the same name.

Last night's *Gazette* contains a decree issued from the Local Direction of Administration, signed by General Dulce, which, after enumerating all the legal grounds, declares null and void the fusion of the two principal railroads of the island, the one styled the Compania de Ferro Carriles de la Habana, and the other El Ferro Carril de la Bahía de la Habana a Matanzas, under the title Empresa de los Ferro Carriles de la Habana. The ostensible reason for the decree is that the fusion is not in accordance with law.

A copy of the decree is to be sent to the Colonial Minister at Madrid. Señors José Morales Lemus, José Manuel Mestre, Francisco Ferrer and many other distinguished Cubans were the promoters of the fusion.

There is good reason for believing that the old tariff of import duties will be removed ere long and higher duties imposed, on the system of *ad valorem*.

The *Gazette* of yesterday contains a manifesto, signed by many of the most influential citizens of Villa Clara and addressed to the Lieutenant Governor of that jurisdiction, denouncing in the strongest terms the Central Republican Junta and the doings of the insurgents of Cuba.

By order of General Dulce, dated 21st, a negro named Justo Sanchez, a slave of the insurgent chief Diego Abren, is emancipated. He abandoned his master, refusing to take any part in the insurrection, and did signal service to the troops in the action of the 21st ult., disclosing the whereabouts of the insurgents.

The council of war convened for the trial of Don Rafael Canza and Señor Mendivil, on charge of treason, on the occasion of the disturbances at the Villanueva theatre, January 12, was to open yesterday, but its sitting was postponed for some reason. Pedro Pablo O'Reilly, colonel of militia, was to have presided, but as he has been entrusted with a commission to Spain the Mayor de Plaza will be substituted.

The volunteers of the Sixth battalion are so dissatisfied with their new commander, he being an officer of the regular army, that they propose to nominate Señor Kersel, whom, being a Cuban, they rejected not long ago.

Yesterday another of those scenes occurred which show the volunteers to be masters of Havana. An order arrived at the Cabañas Fortress for the removal or release of a political prisoner, said to be a relative of Cespedes. The guard on duty, from the Third battalion of volunteers, opposed the execution of the order, and, despite the subsequent appearance of the City Governor the prisoner was retained.

**Volunteer Arrests by the Volunteers at Bejuco.**  
BEJUCAL, April 22, 1899.

The Governor had a serious dispute lately with the volunteers. These were taking the law into their own hands by throwing some Cubans, simply on suspicion of disloyalty, into military confinement; but it appears that the officer has been held liable to the military ordinances, and no cause for the unjust imprisonment of the Cubans being brought forward they were released. This is not the first instance where the lesser authorities have shown more "pluck" than others "above" them.

**Affairs at Cienfuegos—All Prisoners to Be Sent to Havana—No Gatherings to Be Permitted in the Streets.**  
CIENFUEGOS, April 21, 1899.

To-day Governor Estefani published the order he had received from General Dulce to send all the prisoners confined in this city, under the charge of infidencia or disloyalty, to Havana—a precaution taken, he states, "to prevent the consequences that might arise from any disturbance or change in the public order." At the same time he directs that no groups of more than three individuals be permitted in the streets after the hour of ten o'clock at night; and further, that any one offering subversive or alarming cries is to be summarily tried and shot.

**Arrival of Reinforcements at Trinidad—Recent Encounters—Insurgent General Cabada Wounded.**  
TRINIDAD, April 21, 1899.

Fortunately for the government forces, reinforcements have arrived sufficient to annihilate all the insurgent bands that may appear here. The encounter of the 16th took place on the coffee plantation of Cacho. The rebel General Cabada was wounded and had to retire from the field. Of the twenty-seven Spaniards, "prisoners" with the insurgents, eighteen "presented" themselves after the action. The number of killed was three—one Cuban, one Galician and one Canary Islander; but nothing is known of the rest. The insurgent force was about 1,000 men, commanded by Cabada, according to a detailed list of the organization, published by the government.

**Murder of an American Engineer at Sagua.**  
SAGUA, April 22, 1899.

James Martin, an American citizen, engineer on a neighboring plantation, was slaughtered the other day and completely cut to pieces by the "brave" volunteers. Information of the occurrence has been given to Mr. Hall, Consul at Havana, by a brother engineer; but it may be justly feared that General Dulce will have "no time" to institute the proper inquiries, and consequently the perpetrators of the cowardly act will escape "condign" punishment. The worst of all is that, not being "checked" in their "notorious braveness" the volunteers will take a "liking" to such conduct, and we may at any moment hear of more such atrocities.

**The Lizzie Major's Passengers Delivered to the American Consul—Return of Troops—An End Soon to be Put to the Insurrection.**  
REMEDIOS, April 18, 1899.

The two Cubans, passengers of the American bark Lizzie Major, have been released, and were to-day

placed at the disposition of Mr. Stone, the United States Consular agent.

General Puella arrived lately with a column of 350 men, without having met with any enemy on the way. He was entertained at the house of Don Estraton Bansa. In his address to the inhabitants, as published in the papers, he says that the country has been scourged by his forces throughout Moron and Santi Espiritu, and that he has adopted such measures as will soon put an end to the insurrection in those quarters.

The directors of the railroad from Calbarien to Santi Espiritu have ordered the name of Lemus—in honor of Morales Lemus—to be effaced from the principal station, and the name of Hernandez substituted.

**Insurgent Appeal—Want of Arms the Reason for Inaction.**

We have received a copy of a manifesto signed by Donato del Marmol and Felix Figueredo, general in the insurgent army of Cuba, addressed to "The Citizen President of the Central Republican Junta of Cuba and Porto Rico;" but who that gentleman is does not appear. The following extracts contain the chief points of the manifesto, which is dated at

CAMP SAN RAMON,  
DISTRICT OF SANTIAGO DE CUBA,  
March 22, 1899.

The Spanish government holds to-day no more ground than that trodden by its soldiery, and this is limited to the principal towns where they are now, as it were, imprisoned in their own houses. But as they neither possess the gift of persuasion nor have the power to command by force, they have converted those places into dens of tigers disguised under the shape of man; from thence they come forth, when they are sure of not being attacked, to return with innocent victims and boast of imaginary triumphs.

Yet this state of things continues unchanged, owing to the unfortunate circumstance that the Cuban army is unprovided with the arms and necessary implements of war to attack the enemy within their strongholds, and so long as this necessity lasts the Spanish soldiers, among whom the volunteers from the Peninsula are distinguished for their brutal ferocity, will continue with impunity to augment their list of horrible assassinations, the more keenly felt because the conduct thus far observed by the republicans of Cuba is worthy of praise, since they have for their Spanish prisoners every regard that misfortune is entitled to, and respect the opinion of those who refuse to enroll under their banner.

In view of this critical situation and of the very just reasons which uphold the right of Cubans to proclaim their independence and to resort to arms, it is time that some powerful and magnanimous nation should interpose its influence in order that the laws of civilized warfare and the precepts of humanity be substituted for those acts of vandalism which are a disgrace to those who commit them.

The undersigned, therefore, address the worthy President of the Junta Central republicana de Cuba y Puerto Rico, in order that, straining his patriotism, he may not rest until he obtains that the government of the United States recognizes the independence of the provisional revolutionary government of Cuba, and declares belligerent rights for its liberating army. Likewise that the great American republic, in virtue of that declaration, intervenes with Spain that she may be induced to change the system of warfare adopted by her until now, to admit the exchange of prisoners and to respect peaceful Cubans who take no part in the struggle.