

in search of the rebels. *La Voz de Cuba* mentions an encounter between fifty-seven volunteers and 1,600 rebels, in which the former were victorious, killing twelve, wounding many and taking several prisoners; also horses and papers of great importance. The troops under Brigadier General Escalante, in Espiritu Santo, had suffered very great losses recently while dashing through a wood filled with rebels.

In Santa Cruz, the 21st, a column of 1,200 men had arrived from Puerto Principe, having been annoyed somewhat on the way by rebels, and with one wounded. They were to return on the following day with provisions, munitions and hospital stores.

Dates from Puerto Principe are to the 27th. The situation is represented as deplorable. The greater part of the houses are abandoned; some from disloyalty, others driven by fear and hunger. Schools are suspended, churches converted into barracks, the children scattered and the entire population melancholy and afflicted.

From Nuevitas the 25th. No insurgents are in the vicinity. The troops recently arrived here from Havana have embarked on the war steamers *Biasco de Garay* and *Conde Venadito*, for Manatí, whence they were to occupy some important point in the interior, probably Las Tuñas.

Letters from Gibara confirm the statement that one of the Peruvian monitors had entered Port Naranjo and that Marciano Marmol had gone on board of her. She remained there three days, and shipped charcoal and provisions. The collision and sinking of the steamer *Havana* occurred previous to her entrance there. Three convoys had gone from Gibara to Holguin within a month, the rebels not being able to stop them. On the 10th, at night, Lieutenant Medina, with fifty men, dressed as insurgents, surprised and broke up a rebel camp in Managuaco, killing seventeen and capturing two flags, many arms, munitions and horses. If reinforcements arrive soon constant communication with Holguin might be opened. On the 24th the new Governor (Obregon), escorted by twenty volunteer cavalry, started for Holguin. In the hamlet of Auras from 4,000 to 5,000 persons had arrived, having fled before the insurgents.

Belisario Alvarez, a lawyer, native of Holguin, brevet colonel of volunteers there, had been arrested and placed in solitary confinement, being suspected of plotting to go over to the insurgents with a portion of his command.

Santiago de Cuba dates of the 23d state that the copper mines at Cobre have been completely abandoned. The column under Lopez Camara had not yet arrived from Mayari, though it was to march on the 19th, leaving behind a garrison of 200 men. At Canallito, in the Bay of Nipea, he captured some artillery while being landed. He was arrested by Captain Gonzales Munoz, who went in two launches to a point thirty miles from Mayari, when they came upon two canoes, filled with people. The men jumped into the water under a heavy fire, and all the enemy disappeared. Three iron cannon were found.

The latest accounts from Bayamo state that General Valmaseda was awaiting reinforcements in vain, probably owing to events which had occurred at different points; he continues deprived of all communication with the government. He has his headquarters here and communicates with Jiguaní and Baire by land and with Mansanillo via the coast. Deficient in forces, he arranges the situation as best he can. It is evident that the government intends leaving him in inglorious activity. On the 12th arrived at Mansanillo fifty cavalry volunteers, under a youth of Guisa, whom Valmaseda had made captain. His mother had been killed by the insurgents. He brought important dispatches. Dates from Mansanillo to the 19th report a sally from that place, resulting in the killing of thirty-five rebels, including the chief, Juan del Pino.

# **Details of the Insurrection—Operations Near Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Espiritu Santo, Nuevitas, Holguin and Santiago—Fearful Condition of Puerto Principe—Forced Inactivity of General Valmaseda at Bayamo.**

HAVANA, April 1, 1893.

It is said that the mail bag from Nassau, by the *Columbia*, addressed to the British Consul and sealed by the Post Office at New York, has been found opened at the Havana office, whether by mistake or not can only be conjectured.

The customs returns of February show that the duties collected in all the ports of Cuba were only \$463,443, against \$686,779 for the same month in 1892, showing the enormous decrease of \$223,336.

Two volunteers, guilty of irregularities and mutinous conduct on the occasion of the departure of the political prisoners, have been sent to Spain as prisoners and for punishment. One of them is Lavi, a notorious bull fighter here and a man of bad character. The city press here and the action of the government therein are evincing a feeling of impartiality and justice.

The *Diario de la Marina*, commenting on an article in the *London Times* concerning the situation in Cuba, which says that there are only 35,000 troops here and that 50,000 more would not be sufficient to re-establish the prestige of the government, claims that there are now 90,000 in the island, including, of course, the volunteers. The *Diario* increases the number on paper to about 20,000 per week.

The *Blasco de Garay*, which recently arrived here with the *Mary Lowell* in tow, brought Dr. Manuel Castellanos, of Gibara, and a rebel chief, captured at Nuevitas, now in solitary confinement here.

An engineer named Adolfo Molinier, a Cuban, residing in Co'on, was recently shot down by a volunteer without provocation.

A letter from Pinar del Rio, dated the 25th, says the Spaniards from Paso de San Diego to Nantua are all armed. Tobacco crops excellent, vegetables plentiful and the people in good spirits.

The coasting steamer *Moctezuma* arrived here on Saturday, the 27th, with four prisoners in irons. Among them was Señor Codrington, United States Vice Consul at Gibara, accused of complicity with the rebellion. He has since been released, owing, as is said, to his relations to the United States. He is a Spanish subject.

Señor Innocencio Casanova, an aged and wealthy American citizen, has been arrested. He was long a resident of New York, where he has sons and daughters who have been there for some time engaged in attending to his large and important interests. The American Consul, Mr. Hall, immediately called on General Dulce in reference to the matter, and, wonderful to tell, was informed that Mr. Casanova was charged with complicity in the capture of the Comanditario. Of course no one believes this ridiculous statement, evidently trumped up to justify the imprisonment of the head of an extensive family, which, on account of its American sympathies, is very obnoxious to the Spanish government here. It will be recollected that a son of Señor Casanova was recently compelled to abandon his estate near Cardenas, on account of the persecution of the Guardia Civil. He is now in Washington representing the matter to the government.

Dates from Cienfuegos are to the 26th. The artillery column under Morales y Kios had gone to Villa Clara. Seventeen hundred troops, under Colonel Buceta, from Havana, had arrived by railroad. The steamer *Rapido* brought two batteries of artillery, with three Armstrong guns. Brigadier General Amable Escalante, with forces of all arms, goes to Nuevitas. Three thousand troops were about leaving for Sigüenza. The telegraph to Havana, via Cruces and Santi Clara, has been re-established. The Santa Elena estate, belonging to Ramon de la Gandara Lomba, in Las Lajas, had been pillaged and set on fire by a band of 100 men under Villamil, who carried away twenty-nine coolies and twenty-three negroes. The insurgent chief, Balion, with his followers, is reported to be completely surrounded at Voladora, and his surrender was expected.

A letter from Cienfuegos, the 30th, states that a gang of negroes on the plantation *Manuelita*, belonging to Nicolas Acra, had fled, with a view of joining the insurgents. The troops had captured thirty-four of them.

Accounts from Trinidad the 27th state that with the battalion of Chasseurs de Colon from Cienfuegos arrived Colonel Corrales, of the column which defeated the insurgents at Pueblo Virjo. It is believed that there are five thousand insurgents between Guayabo, Sipiabo and Sigüenza. They had shot thirteen Spaniards, some of whom were rural police captains. The forces of Letona and Pelaez were operating in that vicinity.

In Sagua, the 26th, thirteen youths, from fifteen to twenty years of age, bent on joining the rebels, were apprehended. The plantation "Santa Cruz Liebana," owned by Eusebio Cuevas, was on fire. The estates here are in close proximity, and the owners had determined to organize an armed force for their protection. Governor Trillo pardons all those who abandon the rebel ranks provided they are not among the leaders. Many of the negroes carried away from the estates have managed to escape, and have returned to their labor.

Advices from Remedios, dated the 20th, report an engagement between 300 troops, some mobilized sharpshooters and other volunteers and 3,000 rebels, entrenched at Páccetes, provided with cannon and a large number of cavalry. An advanced force of 200 rebels was met at Nagareno and driven into their camp. As the troops approached the rebels opened a heavy fire, which lasted three hours, including artillery, not badly directed. The troops replied with ammunition, and finally charged with the bayonet, dislodging the enemy and capturing their three mountain pieces. The enemy had 135 killed and many wounded. The troops captured an immense quantity of arms, horses, flags, &c. They lost but one wounded.

Two companies of the Fifth mobilized volunteers, which recently left here for Remedios, were defeated near that place on the 21st by a party of insurgents under Traoua, a Spaniard, formerly Captain del Partido, who had been outlawed by the government. The volunteers lost thirty killed and wounded.

Advices from Villa Clara are to the 29th. Nothing of importance reported. Detachments of from fifty to one hundred men were needed to ferret out and surprise the rebels. They are able to avoid large forces easily, and so avoid battle. Large parties of insurgents were concentrated near Arroyo Blanco, led by Valdes, Navarro, Christo, Eloy, Perez, Morales and others. It was not safe to venture beyond six miles from town.

In Espiritu Santo, the 25th, the forces of Poello had returned from Moron. This movement was in combination with Leaca's march from Guanaja, but he did not require aid. Poello had gone out again