

Political and Military Situation of Affairs.

SPANISH ACCOUNTS OF OPERATIONS.

General Activity of the Patriot Forces.

The steamship *Eagle*, Captain Greene, from Havana July 21, via Nassau July 20, arrived at this port yesterday with passengers and merchandise.

Below we give the latest mail intelligence from Cuba.

Suppression of the Herald—Release of American Citizens—Decree of Coast Surveillance Modified—News from the Seat of War—The Insurrectionists Fleeing from the Interior—Destruction of Houses—Great Havoc by Vicious—The New Captain General Selects His Company.

HAVANA, July 24, 1893.

The Captain General is said to have become taciturn, preserving mysterious silence. He receives no visits but of persons that never meddled with politics, among whom are the Marques of Almoneda and others of his class. It is nevertheless known that his Excellency is greatly displeased with the course which rebels are taking in the interior, and disallowing to the want of resources in which he finds himself, to attempt any restoration of peace. Although nothing is heard in public, it is repeated that he is not altogether free of apprehension that something may turn up on the part of the citizen society. It is stated that he has been desirous to have their arms taken from them, with due caution, thinking that these are needed for the army of operations. In consequence thereof the *Plan* bulletin has, it is said, bought rifles and cartridges on their own account, delivering up those of the government; but the other battalions, particularly the second and fourth, which have a number of men in their ranks, without the means of having a really outfit, are remaining *en cuadro*. There can be no doubt, that General Rodas has had apartments prepared for him in the Calan's fortress; insurgents believe that he apprehends some opposition to the departure of Espinar, and for the *Cadiz* mail steamer of the 30th instant, and it is feared that by that time some disturbances may occur unless matters are managed so as to obtain some important triumph, wherewith to occupy the public attention. The government has also comprehended that the emigration of wealthy persons constitutes one of the dreadful arms employed by the insurrection, and it looks for all the means in its power to stop it. The press has been applied to to write on the subject, and if nothing be got by that a system of "terrorizing" may be resorted to. The other day a gentleman, rich and well known in this city, was about leaving the island, in order not to be mixed up in politics, and on applying to the City Governor for his passport this functionary stated that he would not refuse to give it him, but that as soon as he left the country he the Governor would issue orders to embargo the gentleman's property, and the consequence was that the latter had no alternative but to remain. With regard to these sequestrations it is feared that some complications will arise, because the greater part of the properties embargoed are either sold or mortgaged to foreigners. General Aldama had 2,000 boxes of sugar in the public store and although he knew that the government had an intention to embargo the property, he would not give any orders for the sale, because, it is said, he had made a negotiation with some bank abroad, mortgaging all his properties, including the produce of his several estates. Meanwhile, according to *La Voz de Cuba*, his town mansion is likely to be hired, the principal part occupied by the Casino Espinosa and the rest by government offices. The villa of Don Francisco Feser has been advertised for lease for the last fortnight, but nobody seems inclined to rent it; and although it has been offered gratis to the British Consul General to occupy it that gentleman has respectfully declined to do so, so that it is said government employees are going to take possession of it.

I am told that the authorities contemplate embargoing all the properties of Don Jose Baro, a wealthy citizen, merchant and planter of this city, whose seven plantations have produced no less than 4,700 boxes of sugar this year. He left by one of the last steamers for New York, and is now suspected of having given money for the insurrection. With a view that the insurgents shall not burn any of his estates. The truth is that although some of these are situated in the midst of the insurrection none of them have been in any way touched. From the interior many persons have arrived and more are coming, running away from the misery which prevails there. The insurrectionists in Trinidad enter the town, it is reported, whenever they please. They are meticulous at the stores and shops at the taverns, without any effort being made to prevent or capture them. A lieutenant just arrived from Santiago is understood to have said that his battalion was broken up in less than a fortnight without having had one single fight that could be called an action; in fact, the rebellious tactics of firing at the Spaniards and running away had completely destroyed the force. This officer, it appears, had been wounded by a youngster of sixteen years who came up with him on the road. His opinion is that the revolution cannot be suppressed. It is stated that Brigadier Escalante, who lately returned sick, declared that it would be necessary to send 100,000 troops out from Spain to put it down completely.

The municipality and the "Audencia," or High Court of Puerto Principe, are said to have made a representation to the Captain General not to allow General Puella to be Governor of that district, because, being a colored man, it would produce a very bad effect and give rise to greater difficulties. Puella has not yet arrived at the city, despite having twice left Nuevitas for that purpose. Some attribute this to the resistance he met with from the insurgent forces on the way, and others that he is keeping himself in the field.

A physician writes from Puerto Principe that since the order to destroy all horses unavailable to the army, besides those seized by the troops, in that jurisdiction alone more than 1,000 animals have thus been rendered useless, and that at this rate the estates and farms will ere long be without any horses (so indispensable there); besides the stench produced by the decomposition of so much animal matter cannot but increase the havoc already made by the cholera and other diseases.

La Voz de Cuba ironically asks "What has become of the fifty carbines that let the Navy Yard in February or March, and were taken by artillerymen as far as the estate called Santa Rosa? We only know that they were very good ones, and that the volunteers of some place we do not remember counted on getting them, but found it necessary to supply themselves by purchasing others at their own cost." This refers to a sort of an *empeño* of the volunteers and the attack on Aldama's mansion, who was sent on the above plantation when Dulce sent him this aid.

La Voz de Cuba says:—"Scarcely a day passes, when General Lesca took the command, but we are informed by the official organ of some new achievement by our brave troops in the Cinco Villas. Why should this not have been done before?"

General Lesca telegraphs to the Captain General as follows:

Just. After three days' pursuit the cavalry of Trillo's and Trillo's columns have come up with the bulk of the faction of the plantation Farinas. Complete dispersion and four hundred men on the field. The small bands continue to burn the houses which might shelter the troops.

July. The country of Lieutenant Colonel Perez, re-occupied Sierra Alta, destroyed three rebel camps at the point where the troops had not penetrated before, provided with barracks containing ample supplies of provisions and arms; killed the rebels.

On the 1st Colonel Acosta Alvarez, with a few of his staff, arrived here, via Matanzas. With the loss of men in action, by sickness, desertion and other casualties, his battalion of mobilized militia has been broken up. His estate has been destroyed by the rebels, and the volunteers of Santa Espiritu wanted to kill him. His intention was to go to Spain, but as he has been of signal service in the island he has been prevailed upon to try and organize another battalion here, and public notices have been placed abroad with that view.

It has been remarked in the principal towns, such as Sancti Spiritus and Trinidad, that the wealthiest people are neither there nor at their country villas, so that the municipalities scarcely hold any sessions for want of men to attend.

The Captain General has issued the following spicy "general order," as a sample of his temper towards those not appreciating service in the tropics:—

GENERAL ORDER OF THE ARMY.

JULY 16, 1893.

The adjutant of the cavalry militia regiment of Havana, Don Juan Guerra Ramon, has asked leave to go to the peninsula, there to continue his service, and his Excellency the Captain General, considering that any officer who, without justifiable cause or serious demand, solicits to leave a territory where war exists, is entirely useless to the service, has been pleased to provide, and permit, reporting to his Excellency the Minister of War, for the action which the supreme government may deem proper to adopt with reference to said adjutant.

Published by authority of his Excellency in general orders of the day for the information of all grades of the army. The Brigadier Chief of Staff.

CARLOS NATAREO.

By decree of the Captain General, commissions of vigilance are to be established at all the ports of entry in Cuba from and after the 1st of August next, for the purpose of supervising and superintending the fiscal management of the respective custom houses. The commissions will be composed of twenty-four merchants in Havana, twelve in Matanzas and Santiago, eight in Caracas, Sancti Spiritus, Trinidad, Nuevitas and Manzanillo, all to be selected, upon the recommendation of the respective local community, by the Insurrectionary Government.

They will be divided in four sections—one for the vigilance of the harbor, visiting of vessels and inspection of the loading and unloading; another for the examination, classification and appraisement of all woven manufactures and other dry goods; another for the same operations of hardware, iron-ware, machinery and bulky goods, and another for provisions, oils, and liquids. The number of individuals to be proposed to represent the different branches of trade is 150 in Havana, seventy-eight in Matanzas and Santiago, and the rest as may be found convenient to the commerce of each place and the interests of the revenues. The four sections are to meet at least twice a month, forming a Board with the collectors of customs, for the purpose of stopping any abuses that may occur and adopting such reforms as may be necessary to simplify and expedite business. To this end it is advisable that the invoices of imported goods be accompanied with the consular certificates. The commissions are authorized to send delegates to the other ports when deemed expedient. In cases of fraud the commissions are to convocate a meeting, presided over by the Intendente and assisted by his officers, to ascertain whether such fraud has been committed intentionally, and if so, a report of the case is to be forwarded to the Captain General without prejudice to the action of the proper courts of justice.

This decree is highly applauded by the business men of this city, particularly the foreign merchants. Its effect will be "a lesson" to the fiscal employees in their point of view, and it will teach them how to conduct that department very differently to that hitherto managed by military men and others, totally ignorant of commercial pursuits and customs. It will not only put an end to smuggling in the Custom house, but it will tend to the advancement of legitimate trade, fair competition and increase in the revenues.

The *Official Gazette* contains the following:—

His Excellency the Colonial Minister, after notifying me by telegraph to-day of having entered on his high duties, directs me to express his most cordial affection to the faithful inhabitants of this island, the volunteers, the army and the navy, for their unceasing efforts to sustain the good name of Spain and the innumerable sacrifices resorted to in their abnegation towards that end, and it affords me great pleasure in complying with this command, making it public for general satisfaction.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

HAVANA, July 20, 1893.

In consideration of the resolutions adopted by the government of the United States, duly reported by the Spanish Minister in Washington, under date of the 10th inst., and published in the *Official Gazette*, and in order at same time to free the legitimate trade from all unnecessary trouble, I have, in virtue of the authorization with which the supreme government of the nation, determined to modify my decree of the 10th inst., relating it to the first five and essential articles.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.

HAVANA, July 15, 1893.

This modification does not materially affect the force of the decree, which originally consisted of but six articles, as published in the *HERALD* of the 10th. The suppressed article reads as follows:—

Art. 6. In the same manner as those of this island the citizens will limit themselves in their treatment of denounced vessels, or those who render themselves suspicious, to the rights given in the treaties between Spain and the United States in 1795, Great Britain in 1854, and with other nations subsequently, and if, in the exercise of these rights, they should consider any vessel a recognized as enemies of the integrity of the territory they will carry them into port for legal investigation and judgment accordingly.

In consequence of the unceasing efforts with the government made by our present consul, as well as his predecessors, Theodore Canina, an American citizen, though of Cuban birth, and whose letter to the secretary of State was published in the *HERALD* of the 10th inst., was released on the 7th from his long duration and shipped on board the steamer *Beaufort*, together with Jose M. Ortega, Sebastian Pineda and Antonio Gutierrez, all American citizens, kept in the public prison since January last. The two former are Cubans, and the last named is a Mexican by birth.

The Commandant and Governor of Pinar del Rio has ordered the owners of runaway slaves to give immediate notice of their flight, under penalty. The greater part of the Key battalion of regulars stationed at different points had returned to town.

The *Cadiz* mail steamer *Espana*, via Puerto Rico, arrived here on the 10th, but brought no troops. Among the passengers we noticed Don Fernando Fernandez de Rodas and other magistrates, as also Count Lomillo.

The war frigate *Fernando el Catolico*, in company with another steamer of war, sailed the other day to the east coast, in consequence of a report that a suspicious vessel was in sight near Bahia Honda. No such vessel, however, was descried. The *Fernando el Catolico* got aground, and has not been got clear yet.

Mr. Charles Bacot has been authorized by the Captain General to do the duties, *ad interim*, of the American Consulate (Agencia Comercial) in Cardenas.

The Censor has again prevented the sale of the *NEW YORK HERALD*, received by the steamer *Eagle*, as also the *Corriere des Etats Unis*.

To-morrow being the saint's day of St. Jago, the patron saint of Spain, the Captain General has invited the grandees of Spain and other titled folks, all public functionaries, both civil and ecclesiastical, and the navy, military and volunteer corps to be present at the celebration in the cathedral.

An officer just arrived from Nuevitas states that more than 200 of the sick troops die there daily of the cholera.

Arrival of the United States Squadron—Explanations Obtained Regarding the Execution of Speakman and Wych—The Insurgents Attacking Garrisoned Plantations—Arrival of Sick Troops.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, July 10, 1893.

Admiral Horn arrived here on Sunday, July 10, in the *Albany*, accompanying the monitor *Centaur*. The *Gettysburg* arrived at the same time from Haiti. The Admiral's ship did not come up to the town, but stopped near the harbor mouth. The monitor, which lay abreast of the wharf, caused intense excitement, and proved a fortune to the boatmen, who were constantly at work conveying curious crowds for a nearer inspection of the monitor. It is generally known that the Admiral came to make inquiries about the execution of Charles Speakman, and I hear from government sources that he was quite satisfied with the explanations given, and considered the government perfectly justified in what they did. The Admiral leaves this afternoon with his squadron. It was proposed to get up a ball in his honor, but I believe he declined the civility. He waited on the Governor on Tuesday, and the call was returned next afternoon.

There has been a great deal of skirmishing in this neighborhood during the past week, the insurgents having attacked a number of the garrisoned sugar plantations. At the "Cruz" estate the overseer, Felix Nancebo, was shot dead, but whether by an insurgent or by a negro of the estate is not known.

The steamer *Guantanamo* brought 150 convalescent troops from Mayan yesterday.

General Jordan is between this place and Bayamo. Policarpo Rustan, with the remainder of the *Bataguera* (of the *Grapeshot*) expedition, passed over from the Guantanamo neighborhood this week, and, it is believed, has joined Jordan.