

Brigadier Leaca—His Health Demands Mineral Baths—Movement of the Troops from Matanzas—The Embargo of the Gunboats a Great Sensation—Balance Sheet of the Sequestration Office—Suppression of the Manzanillo Custom House—Another Dividend from Bosster & Co.

HAVANA, August 12, 1899.

On Sunday evening Brigadier Leaca, the popular Commandant General of Cuatro Villas, arrived here by train from Batabano, accompanied by a few officers, en route for the baths of San Diego, which his medical advisers have pointed out as the most likely locality where to recover his health. Considering the short time he has been in this country his health has really suffered considerably, and he looks ten years older than when he came from Spain last year. The proper season for taking the San Diego baths does not embrace a later period than the month of April, and some people suspect that this trip, real or pretended, is only a prelude to the Brigadier's final exit, as they report that he is "sick and tired" of it kind of warfare required of him in the interior. The night before his departure the volunteer bands gave him a splendid farewell at the Santa Isabel Hotel.

The telegrams meanwhile received from his successor at Matanzas are to the following effect:—

The detachment of Verdegon and Fifth volunteers have been sent the enemy in Monos, killed five insurgents and captured fourteen horses.

For the Remedios detachments whipped the enemy in the forests of Vega Chaviano, killed seven men, destroyed his camp and several trenches and captured his arms. The column of Sagua destroyed the trenches and killed one of the rebels. The column of Salinas and Laguidain hurt the enemy from Arroyo Blanco, destroying his intrenchments. He reformed near Potrerillo, where the columns again attacked and killed ten rebels, capturing many horses, some arms and a flag. The detachment of San Juan, with part of the Potrerillo force, pursued the enemy after putting out the fire on some estates. The military commandant of Santa Clara telegraphs that the column of Lieutenant Colonel Bouilla whipped the enemy on the Rosario estate, killing ten rebels and capturing seven horses and some arms. The Guardia Civil and volunteers of Las reached a party on the cattle farm La Fé, killed six insurrectionists and captured three horses.

Brigadier Leaca while here was understood to have stated that the order to seize all horses for the use of the army had been "contra-productive" in its effects, because it was discovered that the peasants, rather than part with their horses, preferred going over to the enemy's lines, man and horse together.

We learn from Matanzas that the 250 regulars of the Napoles regiment stationed there had left by train for Benibá. But it has been reported here that their destination was somewhere in the jurisdiction of Colon, their presence there being urgent. Meanwhile, as there are no regulars left in Matanzas, the volunteers are doing duty.

The determination of the State Department at Washington, with regard to the detention or embargo of the Spanish gunboats, has created quite a sensation here. Unkindness is once more at a slight discount among the red-hot dons, while the Cubans are again desperately hopeful.

The Captain General continues to dispose promptly and steadily of the political processes brought to his excellency's notice, in obedience to the given orders.

From the balance sheet of the Sequestration Office of July 31 I find that the following collections have been made from properties attached belonging to the Cubans herein named, viz:—Manuel José Rojas, \$22,067; Juan Terry, \$21,185; Ramon Fernandez Criado, \$11,477; Antonio Fernandez Bromosa, \$9,223; Jose Manuel Mestre, \$5,472; Antonio Max Mora, \$2,843; Joaquin Delgado, \$5,022; Jose Moraca Lemus, \$1,352; Domingo Algama, \$2,153; Gabriel Casais, \$1,474; Antonio Bachiller y Morales, \$645; Francisco Garcia Clavez, \$154; Lorenzo Pedroso, \$235; José Ma. Cespedea, \$64; Ignacio Alfaro, \$233; Manuel Casanova, \$275; Francisco Izquierdo, \$287; José Maria Mora, \$162; Nestor Ponce de Leon, \$395; Ambrosio Valiente, \$232; Federico Galvez, \$25; Manuel Pimentel, \$97; José Sixto Bobadilla, \$131; Francisco Pesser, \$78; Joaquin Cavalero, \$34; Francisco Valdes Mendoza, \$3; plantation Australia, balance of factor's account, \$11,036; advances on sugar, say 2,099 boxes, \$54,530; auction sales of box shooks Ignacio Alfaro consignee, \$1,991, and provisional interests, \$101—total credit side, \$151,572. On the other hand I find the following accounts, debited thus:—Public Treasury, against the war expenditure, \$50,067; Ganuzá's store, balance of factor's account, \$2,099; plantation America, ditto, \$3,993; plantation San Joaquin, ditto, \$5,397; plantation Santa Rosa, ditto, \$247; landing charges, per schooner Estrella, \$36; commissions to the depositors, \$719; general charges for installing, salaries and office expenses, \$4,005; Natura, \$93; and cash account, balance in hand, \$76,527—total, \$153,572. The foregoing represents the effective results in cash. The claims against all the owners are more or less considerable. The sales made of sugar embargoed have been made by direction of the Council and everything seems to be done in a businesslike manner. There will be large amounts coming in from other sources at the end of the year. The office expenses include the salaries for May, \$1,675; for June, \$1,312, and for July, \$1,321. There being more than a thousand persons whose properties have been embargoed, and which naturally demands many employes, comprising twelve plantations, many smaller estates and a large number of houses, it will soon be necessary to increase the number of hands to attend to so much labor.

According to an order of the Captain General the Custom House of Manzanillo has been suppressed, on the score of economy and because the trade is next to nil; but, in order that nothing be suffered therefrom, the fiscal employes of Santa Cruz will attend to the collection of revenues that may occur at the former.

Mr. M. H. Morris has been recognized as Consular Agent for the United States at Cienfuegos.

The liquidators of the banking concern of A. Bosster & Co. announce a second dividend of ten per cent on the amounts due to depositors. Those that had an account current with said bank have already been paid in full.

The British Consul General has sent the gunboat Phloemel to Nuevitas to investigate the grounds upon which Mr. Frederick Wilson, engineer on the plantation Desengaños, in Nuevitas, was imprisoned (or perhaps, ere this, murdered in cold blood); and, further to know why Mr. Sanchez Dolz, British Vice Consul at said port, should be prevented from coming to Havana on business connected with the Consulate General. Yesterday or to-day the British Vice Consul General, John V. Crawford, was to have had an interview with General Rodas with respect to both affairs.

The steamer Almondores has brought twenty-nine political prisoners from Sagua and Caibarien, some of them negroes. The steamer Triunfo from Nuevitas brought many sick troops, officers and employes from Principe and Nuevitas, as likewise quite a number of families, all fleeing from there on account of persecution and misery. The epidemic had abated.

with glorious accounts of their valorous achievements and the great number they had killed of the "mamblacas" (insurgents). But somehow it is reported in town that the insurgent party consisted of only twenty men—that they only had one wounded—and that they never left their trenches; indeed, several of the Spanish volunteers threw away their guns, and thus unsharpened were enabled to "set home" faster than they "intended" at the onset. Thus ended this glorious feat of arms. It is impossible to obtain any correct estimate of the rebel force between this and Francés, not even approximately. The insurgent chiefs on and near the railroad line are Quesada, Francisco Castillo, Ignacio Agramonte, Porro, and others. There have been a number of skirmishes.

There is an interruption caused in the trains whenever and so often as it suits the rebels.

There have been an unusual number of arrests made here lately, including many of the most prominent Cubans, of whom not a few are in no way complicated in the insurrection. Among these recently imprisoned are Don Juan Bajés, planter; Don Pablo Lucio Villegas, merchant; Don Manuel Bajés, Don Emilio Alvarez, Don Domingo Alday and others. But I should not omit Don Emilio de Silva, an American citizen, having resided more than twelve years in Broome county, United States, and he was eight years in the fire department. Would Admiral Hoff be so kind as to come here and convince himself that Señor Silva ought to be released immediately?

A sort of odious conspiracy has been got up here against Señor Sanchez Dolz, and there is no knowing what may be the end of it. Although he has been of great service to the Spaniards, he is now looked upon with great distrust by them, though without just grounds, and at the same time he is suspected by the insurgents sufficiently to have led to a report that they intended to burn his estate of Desengaños sooner or later. Mr. Dolz, having some business to look after in Havana connected with his consulate, intended to have gone by his steamer, but he received an official communication from the new Governor notifying him that he must stay here.

It would appear from the arrests which are now the order of the day that what the Spaniards are intensely bent upon is to get all Cuban property confiscated.

There were no negroes on the Desengaños estate when the troops went there. There were a few Chuanzen and an old negress; the former were taken away by the volunteers, and the latter was killed. But there was a young Englishman named Frederick Wilson, engineer of the estate; he was abducted therefrom by those valiant citizen soldiers, and it is much feared that they will have butchered him on the way, as he was forcibly taken away.

Encounter on the Estero Florida—Change of Commanders—Colonel Quiros Entrapped—No Troops in Town—Arrival of the Sick and Wounded.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, August 7, 1899.

Yesterday there were brought here by Sabanilla Railroad public prisoners who had surrendered to the troops. Public curiosity was excited by the report that two cannons taken from the rebels would arrive by the same train, but in this the numerous persons congregated at the depot were disappointed, for no guns had been taken and only three prisoners brought, who proceeded to the city and were lodged in prison. Of the much talked of action on the Florida estate it appears to have been but a small affair, for government only claims to have killed two rebels, and admit that two soldiers were slightly wounded and one contused.

Lieutenant Colonel Navidad, who has directed operations for some time past in the jurisdiction of Brazo de Cauto, has been relieved and is replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Daza. It is reported that Colonel Quiros was informed that the rebels on the Sulo estate were negligent and unprepared for him; that, therefore, he prepared and marched to the spot where he found no one, the enemy having retired. He pursued them, but the rebels doubled back on the Sulo and cut off his retreat. Of Quiros nothing since that has been heard, probably because his despatches have been intercepted.

In two or three weeks there will be a column of contra-guerrillas ready to take the field, under the orders of Captain buero. It is principally made up of "mosellados" recruited here; for there are no troops here to send, the only resemblance to soldiers remaining here being the bands of musicians belonging to battalions now in the field, and those drummers and pipers are the guards at the barracks and prison.

Twelve wounded and sick men of the Reus battalion arrived here to-day and were conveyed in carriages to the military hospital. They were in the Florida affair.

The Latest Great Exploit of the Spaniards Turns Out a Failure—Continual Interruption of the Trains—Wholesale Arrests of Prominent Cubans—Detention of a Consul.

NUEVITAS, August 9, 1899.

On the 20th ult., 500 regulars and twenty volunteers started across the bay and disembarked at Bajá, from which place they marched in pursuit of a small party of insurgents reported to be on the Desengaños plantation, belonging to Don Federico Sanchez Dolz, the Vice Consul for Great Britain. The rebels met the enemy on the road, and from behind an almost insignificant intrenchment kept up a sharp fire for over thirty minutes, killing three of the Spaniards and wounding two; one of the former is brother to a rich storekeeper, and formed one of the Nuevitas volunteers. The Spaniards returned here