

# CUBA.

The steamship Eagle, Captain Greene, from Havana Sept. 1, arrived at this port yesterday with passengers and merchandise. The purser of the Eagle will accept our thanks for the prompt delivery of our correspondence and mails.

**Secret Manifesto Against Captain General de Rodas—Valmaseda in Command of the Eastern Department—Reports—Enlistments of Volunteers—Negro Militia Untrustworthy—Operations—Spanish Reports of "counters."**

HAVANA, Sept. 4, 1899.

During the past week there has been a great deal of talk here, and a translation of which I send you—addressed to the Spanish residents, and particularly to the Spanish residents, and intent of which is to expel the volunteers, the object of the elevation of Valmaseda to his position, with as those while in Cuba. It is of the same character and, though it preceded the deposition of Dulce, a trial of the Cubans, it is in reality an ebullition of the antagonism toward the colonial government, on account of its incapacity to suppress the insurrection, indulged in by the more ignorant and bigoted Peninsulars, which compose a large class of the Spanish residents. That the suggestions contained in the manifesto will ever be carried out is scarcely within the bounds of possibility, as the requisite unity cannot be attained; that they should ever have been made is indicative.

Among the changes in administration recently made in the island, the more important is the resignation of General Sison de la Torre from command at Santiago de Cuba. This officer has been made a victim to that sentiment among the Catalans and others which demanded indiscriminate slaughter. It is true that under La Torre's administration the number of executions have been such in Santiago as to astonish the world, several Americans, as will be recollected, being included in the number; yet, as is well known, he ordered these with reluctance, and because, amid the turbulence and bloodthirstiness of the volunteers, it would not have been safe to do otherwise. A conspiracy to displace him in favor of Palacios was discovered some little time since, the failure of which was only attributable to a colonel of one of the volunteer organizations. The Governor was subsequently on his guard at all times, and, relying upon his artillery, was determined to mow the conspirators down with grapeshot, in case of attack. He was personally desirous of leaving, but was determined not to be driven out. With his withdrawal the command of Valmaseda is extended over the entire Eastern Department. He is very popular with the more bloodthirsty volunteers, as during the insurrection he has spared none. His famous proclamation against women found away from their homes, ordering the destruction of all abandoned houses, and pronouncing absence a proof of guilt on the part of the natives, together with a suspicion that he was privy to the Jiguani massacre, while it has excited the odium of the civilized world, has endeared him to that large class of Spaniards who would close up the insurrection by killing every Cuban, irrespective of age or sex. In this connection I may repeat the current statement that Rodas was inclined to recall Valmaseda on account of the Jiguani affair, and that he was only prevented from so doing by the certainty of violent outbreaks among the volunteers; and further, that he has telegraphed to Spain asking that Palacios, who was allowed to sail before the facts of the massacre were known, be sent back, and that he will be tried by court martial, and if found guilty will be shot. An effort is now being made to create the belief that the rebels attacked the escort of the prisoners, during which the latter attempted to escape, and were shot. It will hardly succeed, however. Reliable information has reached here from Santiago de Cuba, that previous to being shot several of the prisoners were terribly beaten to make them confess and a number of their limbs were broken. The affair will be investigated by order of the government, but it is more than probable that a whitewashing report will be made for the credit of the Spanish arms.

Numberless reports are rife in reference to proposed action of the volunteers in the city, arising out of their dissatisfaction with the course of De Rodas; but these evidently grew out of the threats and coarse talk of some of the disaffected ones, and have no other significance.

The enlistment of volunteers for the field and the organizing of new battalions for home service continue to attract the attention of the government, but no marked success waits upon its efforts. Four new regiments are projected, of which the following named persons are to be colonels:—Señores Ignacio Langroniz and Marneño Pulido (Spaniards), and Pedro Botonzo and Manuel Ajuria (Cubans). The Foreign Legion, to be mostly composed of Germans, is still being agitated, and a meeting is called at the German Club room to-morrow evening to consider the matter. It meets with no great favor, as its only effect would be to exasperate the Cubans, with no corresponding benefit.

A general conscription is still mooted, the Captain General desiring, as is stated, to raise 100,000 men, 50,000 of whom will be sent to the field and 40,000 left to garrison the town. In Matanzas of late meetings were called to incite volunteering, and some 4,000 men expressed themselves ready and asked for arms. As a large proportion, however, were Cubans the request was not complied with.

The vigilance of the government in hunting up and arresting those connected with the insurrection has very considerably increased of late. Much care is taken to prevent the circulation of news, especially from the United States, and passengers arriving are subject to the most careful scrutiny. The opinion is entertained that there still exists in Havana a branch of the Junta Cubana, and great efforts are being made to ascertain of whom it is composed. Certain young men suspected of introducing from the United States newspapers in the interest of the insurrection continue in close confinement, although no papers of the character mentioned were found.

From the seat of war information reaches us that there is much distrust of the colored militia. Upon the arrival of Puello at Puerto Principe some of those who had been in the insurrection joined him on account of his color. It was afterwards discovered that some of them were in communication with the insurgents, and a part have been sent to Villa Clara and others disbanded.

Insurgent parties are still roving about Colon, but avoid any encounter with the troops.

An encounter recently took place near Guanajay west of Havana, in which seven volunteers were wounded and a few killed.

On Thursday a despatch was received here stating that Grant had received important despatches from Serrano, and it was suspected the Regent was about doing something against the national integrity. The matter was discussed in the Spanish club, and the idea of opposing any alienation of the island met with universal favor.

The Captain General is about to visit the Cinco Villas, with his escort "Las Guías." It has been generally reported that he goes to receive the capitulation of Cayo who proposed to surrender, but to the Captain General only. This is, however, denied at the palace.

The *Gaceta* contains the following official communications from the field:—

General Valmaseda, the Commandant General of operations in the Eastern Department, under date of the 13th of August, states that thirty troops of Santo Isidro attacked and routed a party of rebels there insubordinating, killed seven, wounded six and made three prisoners. In Baire the insurgents made an attack on the forces there from five different points, and were repulsed, though superior in numbers, with great loss; the same occurred in Cayana, where the enemy appeared with a considerable force. Under date of the 14th he informs the Captain General that the force he sent to Hiajaca, consisting of 180 infantry, with one howitzer, and in a bayonet charge they destroyed the rebels, destroyed their camp at Negro, killed four, wounded one and made several prisoners. The volunteers of Bayuelto made a reconnaissance near Alegria and killed the rebel—the so-called Colonel Jose Benitez.

The Commandant General *pro tem.* of operations of Cuatra Villas has telegraphed as follows:—

AUGUST 27.—Some forces of Camalones fought the enemy in Paima bola, killed two rebels and captured five horses. At Baer river and Minas woods the column of Laguidain killed two rebels. In Calcajes twenty volunteers dispersed a party and killed eight. Some forces of Verdugo, aided by volunteers, killed two rebels on the plantation Martines and captured forty-two horses.

AUGUST 28.—The armed force on the plantation Rosario repulsed the enemy's attack and captured a cañon and several muskets. The volunteers of Canas came up in support.

AUGUST 30.—Thirty-two rebels of the bands of "the Pole," Calicjas, Villamil and other leaders, have surrendered their arms, asking for pardon. In Vegas Calcas, Commandant Talaya destroyed a rebel camp, capturing five horses and one musket. In Sacramento woods the Guardia Civil and volunteers of Lajas killed three rebels and captured seven stand of arms. On the hill of La Fe the volunteers with regulars of Verdugo, killed one rebel and captured three horses. On the Grietas road Bonilla's column killed five, wounded a large number and captured five horses, besides arms.

AUGUST 31.—The chieftain Jose Pention, companion of Calicjas, has been captured by the volunteers of Cienfuegos. In San Diego de Niqua two more rebels have applied for pardon. In Encrucijada twelve rebels of Calicjas were shot for incendiarism.

SEPTEMBER 1.—The rebels who attacked the plantation Rosario were encountered in their flight by the column under Arias and dispersed, with the loss of two killed and two horses captured. Those that attacked the Luisa estate were also attacked and dispersed, with the loss of some wounded.

SEPTEMBER 2.—The column commanded by Commandant Tacas of the Engineers, has, since the 18th of August been in constant operations in Arroyo Blanco till to-day, when it entered Santa Clara. In that space of time they have caused considerable losses to the enemy, having killed thirty-four of the rebels, wounded a much larger number, taken six prisoners, captured a considerable number of horses and a large quantity of arms, besides destroying all their camps, which contained ample supplies of provisions and warlike stores. In Arroyo Blanco a barracks has been erected for the accommodation of a respectable force, with all that could be needful to the troops. The building has been fortified sufficiently to resist any attack, and is occupied by an adequate force.

**Affairs About Puerto Principe—Troops Awaiting Reinforcements—Encounter at Las Minas.**

NUEVITAS, August 25, 1899.

Nothing of particular importance has transpired in this vicinity since my last. Both of the contending parties seem to be resting on their laurels. The government troops are, without doubt, waiting for the reinforcements anticipated at the end of the hot weather, as sickness has so thinned their ranks that

it is impossible to keep up active operations. Occasionally slight skirmishes take place between the insurgents and foraging parties from Puerto Principe, but with results of such slight importance that they are not worthy of more particular mention. A recent engagement is reported at Las Minas, on the line of the railroad. The troops claim that they had a hand-to-hand encounter, lasting more than an hour, with superior numbers of insurgents, killing twenty-six of them, while, wonderful to say, they lost not one.

The road from here to Puerto Principe is still open. Locomotives are actively engaged and two and trips are made weekly, running the distance in much less time than formerly. The cholera has entirely disappeared from this city and from Principe, and on the 16th a Te Deum was sung here in gratitude.

**Reappearance of Patriots—Skirmishes—Defeat of a Spanish Column.**

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, August 27, 1899.

To-day there is a great influx of people here from Si Neriba, owing to the appearance in that locality of Policarpo Rurian, who, having apparently recovered from his reported disaster, a defeat by the Governor of Guanatanamo, has withdrawn a detachment of volunteers of that district. These latter numbered about 100 men, and after five hours fighting gave way with a loss of thirty men. Several stragglers were afterwards captured.

The troops guarding the sugar estates are said to be deserting to the enemy in considerable numbers and it is even reported that two whole companies of the Havana regiment had gone over. The insurgents are intrenched in great numbers in the "Recompensa" estate, near to the railroad. They are also moving nearer Guanatanamo, and recently had an action with 100 men of the regular infantry and a number of volunteers. The troops were compelled to retire with a loss of one captain, one ensign and seven men, while the volunteers lost fifteen men. The insurgent force there is stated at 2,000.