

**The Reserve Volunteer Corps—Pressure to Make Cubans Enlist—Volunteers Object to Their Being Armed—The Foreign Legion—The Volunteers Not Going to War—Activity of the Secret Police.**

HAVANA, Sept. 18, 1899.

The enlistment of the reserve volunteers continues the main question of interest in Havana. The newspapers, doubtless inspired by the government, have called upon all persons to give in their names, and have even gone so far as to threaten those who do not, informing them that they will be considered enemies to Spain. Influenced by this, many of those hostile to the continuance of Spanish rule have enlisted. The Cubans are divided as to the proper course to pursue. Some see in this a way to acquire arms and are desirous of taking advantage of it, while others, and the more thoughtful, believe that the only object of the government is to create a moral effect abroad by showing that large numbers of Cubans are opposed to the insurrection, and this end attained nothing further will be done. No arms will be given them. A meeting of the volunteers took place on Thursday to consider the question of the "reserves." No definite conclusion was come to, but the general feeling was of opposition, on the ground that they themselves were equal to all the requirements of the service, the more particularly as, according to the information each day published by the government, the insurrection is practically ended. Again, it was thought dangerous to place arms in the hands of those not known to be loyal to Spain and more than suspected of sympathizing with the insurrection.

The foreign legion is not meeting with any marked success. Some fifty-eight names have been subscribed, and further efforts are in abeyance, waiting the decision of the Frenchmen, to wait upon whom a committee has been appointed. Only Germans

have thus far engaged in the affair, and it may be set down that no foreign legion will be organized.

It is now pretty well settled that the volunteers of Havana will not go to the field. General de Rodas has had their going in view, and would be happy to send them were it possible. At one time much enthusiasm on the subject was felt; but as the time for active operations approaches it is realized that most of the members of the organizations have important private interests to look after, that the insurrection is suppressed, and that troops sufficient to suppress it are about being sent out from Spain, and there is no knowing what might happen if they went out; and so for all these good reasons they have concluded to remain and protect the home interest, always provided things grow no worse.

The activity of the secret police has of late set everybody into a flutter. A general attack has been initiated on all correspondence, and people upon arriving or departing are searched, and if a scrap of paper is discovered, no matter what its character, any writing upon it is eagerly perused by persons particularly selected with a view to their fitness for doing dirty work. It is anticipated that the mail which leaves this morning per steamer Columbia will be examined by the police, as was the case last week. The requisite preparations have been made at the consignee's. I am informed that the American Consul General has been in consultation with the political Governor on the subject, and the conclusion arrived at is that the government has the power to examine the mail previous to its going on board. Should any demands for the mails be made on the steamer and persisted in, Captain Van Sice will turn over vessel and all, leaving the entire responsibility to the government.

The sequestration of property has produced up to date seven millions of dollars, which has enabled the authorities to pay the army, police and others, who have been for some time without remuneration.

The press of Havana, with a unanimity which can hardly be a mere coincident, and which suggests the promptings of the government, have been dealing of late with the efforts of the United States to preserve neutrality. Their articles have been very condemnatory, and have attracted much attention here, particularly one from the *Diario de la Marina*, a translation of which, with one from the *Fox de Cuba* and from *La Prensa*, I send you. A perusal of them will show the American people how much the efforts to preserve neutrality made by Grant's administration are appreciated here.

Great pains is taken to conceal what is going on in the interior. Unimportant skirmishes are reported, but not in the usual numbers. The Cubans are said to be waiting developments, and seldom make any attack, save to facilitate the escape of some families cooped up in the villas by the Spaniards or to accomplish some other collateral end.

It is generally believed that the Yucito Abajo will soon be invaded. Certain documents have been captured which speak of preparations for a strong expedition there, doubtless with the view of destroying estates. The insurgent chiefs who appeared at Guanajay and San Christoval have disappeared. They are believed to be hid in the mountains, waiting for the expected expedition. Insurgent sympathizers in the city are very active, as is reported, and all efforts thus far made by the authorities to discover them have proved abortive.

Differences between the Governor and volunteers of Matanzas are reported, the latter insisting that the former shall confer with them upon important matters, which he declines to do. In order to perpetuate the late heroic defence of Las Tunas, the Captain General, in the name of his Serene Highness the Regent, directs that from this date the place shall be known as "Victoria de Las Tunas."

Señor Angel Morales Armas, a naturalized American citizen, who came out here on the Columbia, was arrested on arrival on suspicion of being an emissary of the Cuban Junta. He was released to-day on condition of returning by the same steamer.

The *Oficial Gazette* contains the following "General Order of the Captain General, Caballero de Rodas, to the Army in the Field," dated Havana, Sept. 17, 1896:—

**SOLDIERS**—The insurgents have used their greatest efforts to take Las Tunas, and so much importance did they attach to this event that the so-called revolutionary Governor was there to aid the attack by his presence. At first two hundred and afterward four hundred soldiers and volunteers were more than enough to break in pieces an enemy who can never wipe out this disgrace. To the handful of heroes that formed the garrison of Las Tunas the gratitude of the country and the highest appreciation are due, and although the Spanish soldier does not require other stimulation than that of his own honor, I will reward his constancy when surrounded by deprivations and his ardor in the combat. To this end I give promotion to sergeants and corporals, the military cross of merit to all the troops and the pension of \$1 50 to the wounded. The chiefs and officers will send to me a report of their positions, rank, crosses and services, so that I may declare the rewards which are their due.

If any person deserves special mention on account of any particular act I desire to be informed of it, so as to do what is proper in the case.

I give the like rewards to the volunteers who shared with the soldiers this glory.

Soldiers of the Army of Cuba, send your congratulations to the defenders of Las Tunas, as does your Captain General.

CABALLERO DE RODAS.