

De Rodas to Hainain Captain General—The Candidature of the Duke of Aosta—The Insurrection—Renewed Activity—Campaign in the Cienega de Zapata—Spanish Losses During the War—The Hurricane—Its Effects on the Crops.

HAVANA, NOV. 2, 1870.

I am enabled to state upon reliable authority that no immediate change is contemplated in the government of this island, and that unless unforeseen contingencies arise the present Captain General, De Rodas, will remain during the forthcoming winter.

The proposed elevation of the Duke of Aosta to the throne of Spain excites some attention here, though the journals with their usual reticence express no opinions pro or con. After a sketch of the life of the candidate the *Diario de la Marina* says:—

It is believed in the Peninsula that great probabilities exist of the House of Orleans occupying the throne of France, and it is considered that the elevation of the Duke of Montpensier to the throne of Castile would be an insuperable obstacle to such solution. It would be nothing strange if the unionist deputies vote for the Duke of Aosta, in which case he will have the greatest majority which the monarchical party has had since the revolution of September. If not, he will have against him a formidable minority, composed of unionists, Carlites and republicans. The Cortes should have come together on the 24th, and doubtless this important question will occupy their immediate attention. We may expect by telegraph speedy notice of a solution of the problem.

With the termination of the sickly season there is observed a renewed activity among the contending parties in the field. The reports received are entirely through Spanish sources and record the inevitable Spanish victories. It is evident from these that little is known of the movements and whereabouts of the prominent insurgent leaders, as some of them are reported routed one day in the Caimaguey and the next as appearing in the Cinco Villas. No marked successes are recorded, and the details are of no interest.

The usual annual effort to clear out the Cienega de Zapata is about being made. This locality comprises the western part of the jurisdiction of Cienfuegos, and, as its name indicates, is low and swampy in its general features. It contains almost impenetrable fastnesses, where the insurgents, habituated to the deadly climate, remain in comparative safety. The effort at clearing them out made last year proved an entire failure, and it is probable a like result will be attained this year. Troops have already been sent down from Cienfuegos to the Bay of Cochinos. It is believed that the chiefs Adolpho Cavada and Jesus del Sol are in the Cienega with their forces.

In Holguin the deaths of the chiefs Delmonte and Ponce de Leon are reported.

A gentleman who arrived from Puerto Principe yesterday reports that it is raining every day, and that the Spanish columns are accomplishing nothing whatever. They go out and remain two or three days and come back with the report that it is either too wet or too dry to accomplish anything.

The Spanish mail steamer Isla de Cuba arrived here this morning, loaded with troops, and others are to be sent at intervals.

As an evidence of the losses sustained by the Spanish forces since the beginning of the war is mentioned the militia regiment of Guines, raised in the district of that name for service during the war. It was composed entirely of long time residents of the island, thoroughly acclimated and accustomed to the habits of the country. They have served in the Cinco Villas, a rich and thriving section, where supplies are at all times abundant. In an article upon the regiment the *For de Cuba* mentions that 250 of the men, nearly one-half, are dead, the greater part killed by the insurgents and others dying from sickness and exposure. The mortality among the troops from Spain is, of course, very much greater, and it is safe to conclude that more than one-half of those sent out here one year ago are dead or incapacitated for service.

The Captain General has issued a decree requiring the employers of emancipados belonging to certain expeditions taken in 1858, 1859 and 1860 to present them at the office of the Secretary of the Superior Political Government, in this city, within a month after date, in order that after the requisite formalities they may personally receive their letters of exemption, after which the employers can contract for them as free laborers for the space of eight years, both parties agreeing. In cases when the employers are remote from Havana the Governors and Lieutenant Governors of jurisdictions are authorized to act.

It is known that the Spanish columns now take no more prisoners, but shoot all that fall into their hands without trial or formality.

A variety of opinions are expressed in reference to the effect of the hurricane upon the crops, doubtless influenced by the interests of those who entertain them. In the jurisdiction of Matanzas, where the greatest injury has been caused, the damage is estimated at forty per cent, and there is no doubt that it is elsewhere very considerable. The heavy rains which have fallen through October will postpone the commencement of the grinding season quite a month, as three or four weeks of continuous dry weather are needed, and time is required for the straightening and growth of such of the young cane as was bent without being destroyed. The destruction of the plantain and sweet potato crop in those sections over which the hurricane passed is almost complete, the worm having entered the latter. This will cause much suffering among the poorer classes and enhance the price of provisions, such as potatoes and rice. Of the latter there was imported during September 5,000 bags, against 5,000 and 10,000 for same time in previous years; yet the prices are still remunerative.

From Matanzas we learn that 700 bodies have been recovered and buried, victims of the hurricane of the 7th.

Pierre Carm<sup>a</sup>, the French billiardist, has arrived here from New York and will shortly give an exhibition in the Louvre Saloon.

During the absence of Mr. Leopold, a vice consular agent at Nuevitas, Mr. Bernard Wadlington has been authorized to act, being recognized by the government.