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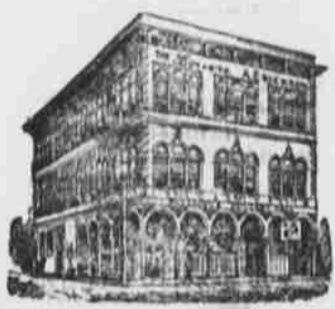
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GENERAL BLANCO'S HOPELESS TASK

Impossible to Effect the Reforms and Carry Out Policy.

RURAL POPULACE MURDERED

Rebel Army Reduced by Starvation and Not Enough Spaniards Left to Guard Plantations and Fight.

New York, November 16.—A World dispatch from Havana says:

General Blanco has entered upon an almost hopeless task. The present Cuban situation is such that it seems impossible to effect the reforms and to accomplish what the greatest army in the history of colonial wars has failed to do. Spain's present policy is announced to be one of combined conciliation and force. It appears to be, as some Spanish journals have called it, "a suicidal policy." The peculiar and not generally understood condition of the Cuban struggle now make any conciliatory move a direct play into the hands of the insurgents. This is particularly true of the proclamation of November 15, which commands civil and military authorities to aid in protecting the sugar properties in grinding cane. To adequately protect the sugar estates likely to operate, General Blanco will have to practically close the operations against the insurgents. He has not enough men to do both things. Most of the plantations were worked last year for short periods. All paid their own guards and most of them paid the Cubans as well. Those planters who did not pay tribute were forced to double or triple their tribute. Only about 25 per cent of the sugar plantations that operated two years ago have machinery modern enough or one good enough to warrant grinding at the present price of sugar.

General Blanco will have to furnish, estimated moderately, at least 12,000 men, or 25 guards to each of 40 plantations. These soldiers must come from forces now operating against the insurgents. It is not likely that General Blanco has forgotten the lesson of the invasion, and will take the regular troops from guard duty in the towns to allow volunteer garrisons opportunity of surrendering to the enemy. The large number of Cubans forced by hunger into the volunteer uniform makes such surrendering more probable now than before.

More than half of the rural population has disappeared, having been murdered by Weyler and his supporters. The same men are much more accountable for the inhuman manner in which their splendidly brave soldiers have been undervalued and uncared for. As nearly as can be ascertained from conservatively computed figures' little more than half are left alive, and what of the 150,000 peasant lads Spain sent to Cuba, the figures are:

Died in hospitals, 32,000.
Killed or died on the field, 12,000.
Sent back to Spain as "inutile," 25,000.
Now in hospitals, 12,000.
Total, 81,000.

Of this enormous number, it is probable that more than 30,000 met death or disability from Cuban bullets, even during the real fighting of the invasion, and the six months thereafter.

Maceo estimated that more than 30,000 Spanish soldiers had fallen in battle. That was in August, 1896. Since then very little fighting has been done. If General Blanco follows up his proclamation and guards sugar making this year, he will not have more than 25,000 men available for service against the insurgents. Of the 30,000 troops at his command, 30,000 are guarding towns. About the same number are looking after railroads and the trochas. These cannot very well be drawn upon, or the well-organized rebels of Eastern Cuba can swoop down in a second invasion and the railroads will again be torn up.

The best-informed Cubans admit that disease and starvation have reduced the rebel army of able-bodied men from 100,000 to 40,000. The real figure probably is nearer 35,000. Still there are more than General Blanco will have to send against them and they are vastly better armed and have fifty times more experience than when they baffled the successive efforts of Weyler to crush them with twice that number of men, taking one province after another. It is not likely that with the odds in their favor they will continue to run away. Insurgent bands may combine and the experiment of weakening his force to aid his conciliatory movements may be disastrous

CAPTAIN TUTTLE GETS HIS ORDERS

His Voyage With the Bear to the Arctic Outlined.

MUST RESCUE THE WHALERS

And Get Food to Them as Early as Possible—Will Start November 23— A Long Trip.

Washington, Nov. 16.—Captain Shoemaker, chief of the revenue cutter service, has prepared a letter of instructions to Captain Tuttle, in command of the Bear, on her cruise north to relieve the ice-bound whalers.

Owing to the fact that at this season of the year the route to the Arctic through Bering sea is closed, Tuttle is directed to establish communications with the whaling fleet by means of an overland expedition. He is ordered to proceed with his vessel on or about November 23 to Cape Nome, thence, if the ice permits, north between St. Lawrence Island and the coast of Alaska to the north shore of Norton sound, between Cape Nome and Cape Prince of Wales, where a landing will be effected if possible. From this point of landing will begin the overland expedition north.

The officer in charge of the government station at Umanaska is to be communicated with, with a view to collecting an entire available herd of reindeer to be driven to Point Barrow. W. T. Lopp, at Cape Prince of Wales, is to take charge of the party and the herd, and make all necessary arrangements for herders, clothing, sleds, dogs, etc. The necessary food for the use of the party will be landed from the ship. When the deer are collected and a start made, a party from the Bear will travel with it as far as Koolik sound. This point reached, one officer and the reindeer drivers will push out ahead to Point Hope, leaving the others and the herd to follow. At this point the expedition will probably get the news of the condition of the imprisoned fleet at Point Barrow. If it should be learned that the fleet is ice-bound and its people in distress, the white people are to be informed that they will be expected to take care of such men as may be sent down later. The expedition is then to push on, following the coast.

On their arrival at Point Barrow, if the situation is found to be as desperate as anticipated, the officers will take charge of the ships in the name of the government and organize a community for mutual support and good order, apportion the provisions on hand and slaughter the reindeer for food, to make all hold out until August, 1898, when Captain Tuttle may be expected to arrive with the Bear. Such reindeer as are left will be turned over to the Presbyterian mission at Point Barrow.

All rescued whalers should be at Point Hope by July 1, where they can be reached and succored a month earlier than at Point Barrow. No opportunity for hunting, sealing or whaling whereby the food supply may be added to, is to be neglected. In case Captain Tuttle finds it impossible to effect a landing on the north shore of Norton sound, he is instructed to adopt the most feasible of five plans, which are outlined, always bearing in mind that food must be gotten to the 255 starving men at the earliest possible moment. He is given full authority and the largest possible latitude to act in every exigency that may arise.

After landing the overland expedition, the Bear will seek such harbor as may be deemed proper in which to await results and the opening of navigation in the spring.

In closing his instructions to Captain Tuttle, Secretary Gage says: "Mindful of the arduous and perilous expedition upon which you are about to enter, I bid you, your officers and men, God-speed upon your errand of mercy and wish you a successful voyage and safe return."

SUDDEN EXCITEMENT

Government Building More Big Guns at Midvale.

Philadelphia, Nov. 16.—For more than two months people living in Toga and Nicetown have commented upon the fact that the Midvale steel works have not had a shutdown even for Sunday and the jarring noise of the big machinery has penetrated at midnight or the early hours of the morning as during the day. Sickness has been the only plea that would permit any of the employes to enjoy a day's rest and three relays of men have been alternately kept at a high tension. All this

IN IMITATION OF ENGLAND

Germany Playing the Role of Bully to Hayti.

THE TROUBLE NOW AVERTED

William's Army Will Not Go to the West Ladies, Through Our Minister's Intervention.

Kingston, Jamaica, Nov. 8.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The threatened rupture between Germany and Hayti has so far been amicably settled, thanks to the mediation of the United States minister, F. W. Howell, though it is still understood that Germany intends to make a naval demonstration in Haytian waters.

The German version of the trouble has been already published.

The following is the Haytian side of the dispute:

The dispute arose out of the imprisonment of Herr Emil Lueters, the son of a German who married a Haytian woman. Up to a short time ago Lueters was a Haytian citizen, but, it is added, having been concerned in various little affairs, among which are mentioned four duels, he seemingly deemed it wise to change his nationality and registered his name at the German consulate.

For an assault upon a cab driver, said to have been unprovoked, to which Lueters, it is said, pleaded guilty, he was sentenced to one month's imprisonment. He appealed from this decision to the correctional court and the sentence was altered, he being sentenced to one year's seclusion and a fine of 50 francs. A further appeal was pending when the German minister interfered without invasion, and, it is claimed, forced his way into the private apartments of Ticasias Simon Sam, the president of the Haytian republic, and in a rude and peremptory manner, demanded the release of Lueters, with an apology to the German government, an indemnity of \$1000 a day for the time he had been in prison, the immediate trial of the police who arrested him and the dismissal of the judges who sentenced him. If the prisoner was not released within 24 hours the indemnity was to be \$500 per day for every day thereafter.

Naturally the president resented the insult which had been offered and firmly but politely referred the minister, Count Schwerin, who is charge d'affaires of the German embassy at Port au Prince, to the minister for foreign affairs, whose duty it was to enter into such matters. The German minister demanded that Simon Sam should comply with his demands, and meeting with refusal, called to Berlin for instructions. A reply having been received, he hauled down his flag and announced that three German warships were on their way here.

This news became public property and aroused the Haytians to fever heat of excitement and indignation, and even the American and British residents felt that it was an attempt to "milk a cow already dry," and the Haytians, despite their feebleness, were bound to resist it. Many of them offered their assistance to the government as volunteers in the event of trouble.

Feeling the current of public opinion and the certainty of support in any defensive action which he might take the president called in as many troops as could be reached at short notice, the barracks were filled, ammunition was served out and every preparation made for a fierce struggle. Acting entirely upon his own volition, Mr. Powell, the United States minister, addressed letters to the Haytian minister for foreign affairs, requesting that Lueters be released. The Haytian minister then, as an act of courtesy to the United States, released Lueters, but at the same time officially expelled him from the country. He left at once for Berlin, where he laid his case before the German government.

Foreign CROP SITUATION.

Russia's Wheat Crop is Deficient, but She Exports Freely.

Washington, Nov. 16.—The agricultural department has issued its monthly review of the foreign crop situation. Much attention is devoted to the grain crop of Russia, especially wheat, on account of its magnitude as a factor in European supply.

The review says that all accounts agree in representing the wheat crop as deficient, but the review calls attention to the fact that since the harvest Russia has exported grain very freely. It is generally understood that Russia has large stocks of wheat left over from the crops of the preceding year and this fact coupled with the good prices which have prevailed may account for the large exports which have taken place even though the crop failure in large parts of Russia has been extremely serious. The review says estimates of the Russian crop are so uncertain that their reproduction would be of doubtful utility.

Preliminary official figures for France show a reduction of 25 per cent below 1896 and 17 per cent below the average for ten years. As for five years, France and Russia produce 25 per cent of the world's crop. The review says a heavy shortage in both countries would therefore be sufficient in itself to produce a very sensible effect on the world's supply, independent of short crops in Austria, Hungary, the Danubian and Balkan countries and elsewhere, and the shortness of the last crop in India, Australia, and Argentina. In Germany rye, which is the principal bread grain in that country, has been officially estimated at 1 per cent less than last year's crop. Various estimates for Austria-Hungary are more or less conflicting but there is no doubt as to there being a heavy deficit in the wheat crop.

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