

foreign country. Spain is bankrupt and she is in no position to continue this war."

Gen. Palma said that Gen. Lacet assured him that the Cuban army was well supplied with arms and ammunition.

Col. Giberger and Alonzo are both men of ability and are the confidential advisors of the Cuban government. Their stay in this city will be short. They expect to be back in the field in Cuba before the middle of next month.

New York, March 8.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Havana says:

When arms failed, Spain fell back on politics to gain peace in Cuba. Now that politics has failed, she seeks to fall back on arms. This is the meaning of the declaration from Madrid that Sagasta has decided to press autonomy vigorously by both military and political measures. It is the minister's confession of the failure of the radical autonomists to reach the insurgents with their twelve articles of weakened faith. Had there been a hope of success by opening negotiations with Gomez on this basis the Madrid cabinet would have temporized and evaded a positive declaration. There being no hope, the prospective rejection by the insurgents of the terms offered is discounted by a disavowal in advance.

Govin in the cabinet and Amblard and Giberger out of it, are left to make their own explanations. They anticipated that something of this kind would happen, and they can probably take care of themselves. Had the movement promised well, they knew it would have been encouraged and supported in Madrid.

Meantime the historic autonomists in the cabinet, Galvez, Montero and Zayas, come out from behind their own shadows and announce that they never endorsed the plans.

It is true that the central committee or junta of the autonomists' party acted over their heads, informally committing the organization to further concessions to the insurgents, but if the professed departure had possessed vitality in would have been in danger from their opposition. The autonomists are still the fractional minority of a party that has been small in numbers. Ordinarily a conflict raging in a cabinet would mean disruption. However, the autonomist cabinet has so little to do with the actual government of Cuba, such government as it is, that no more attention is paid to the radically opposing position of its members than to a mere difference of personal opinion.

The promises that peace will come by arms will divert attention from the breakdown of the political support of autonomy only temporarily. The army of Spain, which is spread over the island, is paralyzed. It cannot achieve a single important victory, much less carry on a military campaign. When by chance the insurgents are encountered in the fields, if the troops hold their own it becomes a subject of congratulations. A month has gone by since General Blanco told the people in the eastern provinces that they should have peace by the end of February. A charitable construction was put upon the words, and the date was said to be "approximate." That elastic term cannot be held much longer.

The attempt is made to divert attention from the paralyzed army on the island to the vigorous power on the water. The Vizcaya and the Almirante Oquendo appeal to the popular mind. They revive Spanish patriotism.

How their guns are to be aimed against the insurgents in the hills and woods is not explained, nor is explanation demanded. The people are more impressed with the ships as a probable force against the United States than as a means of fighting the insurgents. The spasm may prove a

passing one or it may grow into a frenzy. At present none can say.

The worst feature of the situation is the renewed aggressiveness of the volunteers since the January riots. They have seen that the proposition of the radical autonomists to disarm them was sufficient to arouse the old feeling. The government even with autonomy moving forward would not have been strong enough to overcome a determined opposition. With the political policy dead, nothing remained except to yield gracefully and deny that the intention to take away their arms existed.

Since this old declaration has been made, it becomes the settled purpose of the government not to interfere with the volunteers. Instead they are to be coaxed and made to think they are again the main support of Spain's sovereignty. They only are exulting in their strength. How far the exulting will carry them, no one may pretend to say. Their power and their knowledge of their power are bad signs for the future.

Within a week the sentiment against intervention has been stiffened. This may be for effect, but the outward outcome indicates something deeper among the official classes, who may be presumed to know something of the policy which governs the Madrid cabinet. The talk is all warlike.

Pekin, March 8.—The Russian demands from China have caused the greatest excitement at the Japanese legation, and the Japanese minister has had several interviews with the officials of the Tsun Li Yamen, the Chinese foreign office, urging the rejection of the Russian demands. In addition it is reported that Japan has threatened to take vigorous action if the demands of Russia are conceded.

Berlin, March 8.—A dispatch to the Tageblatt today from Pekin says Russia has definitely leased Port Arthur and Ta Lien Wan for 99 years. It is added that Russia is determined to carry the Siberian railroad to Port Arthur whether China consents or not.

Yokohama, March 8.—The Korean cabinet, it is understood here, will impeach the foreign minister of Korea for leasing Deer Island to Russia.

London, March 8.—A letter received here today from Madrid says the Spanish torpedo squadron at Cadiz will not sail for Cuba, "owing to the information received from the United States and Captain General Blanco."

PLANTING A CROP OF ONIONS.

[Denver Farm and Field.]

A largely increased acreage in onions is to be put in this season by growers in the vicinity of Denver, Brighton, Greeley, Fort Collins and other places. Planting has been progressing for two or three weeks, as the weather has been exceptionally mild and genial, and the ground has been in good condition. Fall ploughing is preferable in most parts of the country, but it should be deferred as late as possible. Any manure which has been previously applied should be short enough to allow the plow to turn it entirely under the surface. The character of the soil will determine the proper depth for plowing. If the land is rich, loose and friable to the depth of ten or more inches, there is little danger of plowing too deep. It is never desirable to turn up a stiff, heavy subsoil in preparing ground for onions, for this invariably diminishes the yield, renders cultivation more difficult and requires more frequent tilling.

Fall plowing is especially desirable with new soils, pastures and alfalfa sods. It hastens the decay of vegetable matter and the alternate freezing and thawing of winter and early spring thoroughly pulverizes the soil. The ground also can usually be worked

sooner in the spring, which is a great desideratum in sections where it is important to sow the seed or set the bulbs at the earliest possible date. No labor necessary to put the soil in a thoroughly fine condition should be spared. A disk harrow is almost indispensable if clods and lumps are numerous. The roller and this instrument may be used alternately with advantage. A disk harrow which contains a large number of small disks is excellent to follow one with larger disks, but the ordinary smoothing harrows will answer the purpose on many soils. After thorough harrowing a plank drag should be employed to level the surface and make it smooth for planting.

It is impossible to secure satisfactory results without seed of superior quality. Growers sometimes make the mistake of purchasing seed of uncertain vitality because it is cheap. The cost of seed is a small item compared with the other expenditures necessary for a profitable crop, and an attempt to reduce the cost of production by purchasing inferior seed is always injudicious. Earliness in sowing is of the greatest importance. The soil should be harrowed and rendered fit for sowing the first day that it is dry enough to use implements. The seed may be sown by hand or with a garden drill. If the soil is in the proper condition about four pounds of seed should be used to the acre, which will require twelve to fourteen seeds to a foot.

An inch is not too deep for the seed if the ground is sandy or very loose. Cultivating and weeding is more easily accomplished when deep sowing is practiced, but part of the soil must be drawn away from the bulbs when they begin to bottom, unless the ground is so light that it will not prevent the proper development of the onions. The drills should be made from twelve to fourteen inches apart. A marker attachment to the drill is valuable in marking straight rows. This is an important matter, for straight rows, with a uniform distance between them, greatly add to the application of irrigation and facilitates the use of the wheel hoe. A line may be stretched as a guide by which to drill the first row. If the spaces become irregular as the operation proceeds, the rows should be straightened from time to time to time by means of the line.

Daniel R. Doherty, aged forty years, was found dead Saturday afternoon under the house at 1,100 Montgomery street, San Francisco. He had been ailing with consumption for a long time, and had crawled to the spot where he died in a paroxysm of pain.

The steamer Alliance arrived at Seattle, Wash., Monday from Copper River, Alaska. Captain Hardwick reports everything quiet when he left. Prospectors are now going over the Valdes pass into the interior without any trouble. The trail is reported to be in good condition. The citizens of Copper City, on Valdes bay, have organized a court for the purpose of dealing with law breakers. On February 8th the following officers of the court were elected: C. A. King, judge; Delbert Stevens, sheriff; and Frank P. Reed, clerk. A set of laws have been drawn up which provide that all offenses are to be tried by a jury of twelve. The accused person is to have the right of three peremptory challenges, in the impaneling of the jury. In the case of murder the penalty is to be death. In all cases of larceny of over \$100 the penalty is to be the same as that for murder. Under \$100 complete restitution is to be made and the offender is given ten days in which to get out of the country. The Alliance came down the inside passage and nothing was seen or heard of the overdue schooner Bessie K.