

800,000 signatures. Among the signatures may be found those of nearly all the members of the legislatures of nearly every state in the Union. The petition has also been signed by the board of aldermen of this city.

The petition will be wound on a roller or wheel, which has been made for the purpose, so it may be readily drawn out and the names counted. It is designed like the pivot-wheel of a ship. It stands about four feet high, and is surmounted with gold.

Cleveland, O., Jan. 18.—Last night three masked robbers went to the home of David Culbertson, a wealthy farmer, 75 years old, near Wadsworth, O. One leveled a revolver at the head of the terrified farmer and his wife and daughter. The intruders demanded money.

Mr. Culbertson gave them \$25, all he had in the house, and a check for \$50. The robbers took a large sum was concealed in the house, and they proceeded to pull off Miss Culbertson's clothing and with irons heated turned and tortured her in a terrible manner in the hope of drawing from her the supposed hiding place of the money. She finally fainted and the robbers left.

HAVANA, Jan. 15, via Key West.—It develops more clearly every day that Antonio Maceo was led into ambush when he was killed. According to the statements made by prominent insurgents who have been entrusted with the task of investigating the facts of his death, Maceo was permitted to pass the military line across the Pinar del Rio in pursuance of a plan which resulted in his murder. After crossing, Maceo, with a small escort, was making his way into Havana province with the intention of meeting the insurgent forces which had been ordered to concentrate at a place previously agreed upon, when he and his followers were suddenly confronted by the Spanish force under Maj. Crujeada. Maceo promptly ordered a charge and led it in person, when a volley from the Spanish advance guard, composed of guerrillas, was fired at the insurgents, and Maceo sank, wounded and dying, upon his saddle.

So far the account agrees with that given out by the Spanish authorities. But the insurgents now insist that Maceo's followers distinctly saw Dr. Zertuche, Maceo's physician, among the Spanish guerrillas, who apparently had ambushed the insurgents, and they point to this and other facts as proof that Maceo was betrayed by the physician. It also seems true that the Spaniards succeeded later in obtaining possession of Maceo's body, tying it to the tail of a horse and starting with it toward the Spanish main body. The insurgents, however, rallied and charged again, obtaining possession of their leader's remains and carried them to a place of safety. The body was afterwards given a military burial at a spot which is known to but a few of the most prominent of Maceo's associates. This is the reason that the Spaniards have been unable to find the body of their dreaded enemy, and explains why they have been unable to establish the fact of his death.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The Standard's Madrid correspondent, with reference to the coming decree for Cuban reforms which he says the queen regent

has completely approved, telegraphs as follows:

"It is evident that the government wishes to indicate that it has acted spontaneously, even going beyond the powers already voted by the cortes, which will have to grant a bill of indemnity for the new decree. The reforms will show how far Spain is prepared to go in decentralization without surrendering any rights or prerogative of the home government or the cortes, in which Cuba and Porto Rico will have due representation.

"It will also be seen that in the reform of the tariff Spain is disposed to make sacrifices compatible with the needs of the Cuban budget. More calmly than is expected from a conservative cabinet, and Spaniards will anxiously watch the effects of this change of policy in the new world."

The Standard says of this dispatch in an editorial: "The plan owes its origin to Senor Canovas, and it is a foregone conclusion that the council of state will approve the reforms. It is Spain's only safe policy. She incurs grave risk of rupture with the United States by continuing the war. She is right in refusing to quit her hold of Cuba. If the insurgents are disconcerted with the concessions, Spain is justified in a severe use of the sword."

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The Herald this morning says:

Gen. Carlos Roloff, secretary of war from the insurgent Cuban provisional government, has just completed the organization of one of the largest military expeditions ever prepared in this country for the aid of the Cubans. The disclosure of Roloff's plans led to his arrest again.

Senor Beldana, the Spanish consul general in this city, was notified a week ago that Roloff was organizing this expedition.

Great efforts were made to secure some evidence that would prove that Roloff intended to leave the country, but such evidence could not be procured.

It was learned that the Cubans had purchased a large amount of arms and munitions of war within the last three weeks, more than ever before in the history of the Cuban war, but nothing further could be discovered by the Spanish officials concerning this war material except that it was intended for the insurgent army. Roloff was under \$2,500 bail to appear for trial on a charge of participation in the Laurada filibustering expedition. He had furnished \$2,500 in cash, which the government held. The case however would not be tried until the middle of March. As the contemplated expedition was to sail from this country in about ten days Consul General Baldana secured a warrant for the arrest of Roloff in the case of the Woodhall which sailed on a filibustering expedition from the United States in June, 1895.

The insurgent leader, when arraigned was held in \$2,500 additional bail. He has deposited a cash amount to satisfy this new bail demand and now the Spanish officials have ordered detectives to watch every movement he makes as they say he will possibly forfeit the \$5,000 and steal out of the country with the expedition.

The filibusters are said to be ready to sail at a moment's notice. The

Cubans purchased for the expedition 2,000,000 cartridges, 5,000 Mauser rifles; for rapid fire guns 2,000 gun cartridges and a large quantity of dynamite and hospital stores and camp material.

This entire expedition was organized in this city in a cigar factory in the lower part of the city. A son of Jose Marti who was killed at the beginning of the revolution in 1895, joined the expedition as an aid to General Roloff. The Spanish authorities aided by the United States marine and private detectives, are watching Roloff and all suspected of having joined his party. Cubans say if the expedition can be gotten away the insurgents will be able to strike a telling blow in the field.

MARIENETTE, Wis., Jan. 16.—Nothing was heard of the lost fishermen until this morning and at least five were supposed to be lost. The reports this morning are conflicting. A number of fishermen are known to have reached Green Island, and stayed there last night. Others are said to have landed at Chambers Island. A boat brought in several fishermen who were supposed to have been drowned early this morning. Another boat was seen headed this way and is thought to be bringing other fishermen home. Grave fears are felt for the safety of Theodore Johnson of Sturgeon Bay, formerly vice president of the Menominee River Shogole company. He started from Menominee yesterday to skate to Sturgeon Bay and nothing has been heard of him since.

MARIENETTE, Wis., Jan. 16.—At noon today all doubt as to the probable fate of the fishermen was removed. Manuel Holgren, Charles Nylund, John Johnson and Otto Lureen came across from Green Island in a skiff and reported that they left six others on the island who will be brought over in the lighthouse keeper's boat. When the fishermen felt the current in the bay changing yesterday afternoon, they knew danger was ahead and most of them hurried for the island. All arrived safely but Ed Hoffman, who was being borne away on the ice when the boat went out and rescued him.

The most remarkable escape was that of Sam Lund who got to shore on his sled. He was far out on the bay and put up twenty-seven feet of canvas and literally ekimmed over slush and cake ice. He was drenched from head to foot. The ice went out in half an hour yesterday, and though the bay looks open from here, the fishermen state the ice is crushed in between Green and Chambers islands.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 15.—The House committee on commerce today voted to report favorably a bill authorizing the Sierra Madre Construction company to construct or acquire a bridge across the Rio Grande river at El Paso, Tex.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 17.—Last night and today, throughout the Dakota, Minnesota and Wisconsin a regular old-fashioned snow-storm has been prevailing, and the mercury is dropping slowly. A heavy snowfall has been very generally reported, and a gale has drifted it badly down along street cars in the cities and generally interfering with the transportation facilities.