

manded by Maj. Taso of Gen. Perez's army in Pinar del Rio province, is reported to have captured the heights of Montevarti, north of Paso Real de Santiago, putting over 100 prisoners to the sword. The heights were partially fortified and a number of Cuban families were there, the insurgents numbering about 200. Taso had the aid of a deserter from the camp, and, making a night attack, surprised the place, and after three hours hard fighting captured it. About 100 insurgents escaped, but the others and many of the women and children were captured.

Drawing the prisoners up in line, the Spanish troops shot them down in cold blood, and then put to death the children, reserving the women and girls for the soldiers. The bodies were thrown down the heights, completely choking up a small gorge.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Feb. 18.—Butler has been in the marine in her majesty's service, in addition to his other occupations. He has been identified by two of his former shipmates, John Conway and Thomas Collins, were at one time sailors on board H. M. S. Triumph. There was a marine on board by the name of Ashe. When the two old sailors saw the picture of Butler they recognized the face. Collins was positive the man was their old shipmate Ashe, and to make sure Conway went to see them.

At the station Conway and Butler recognized each other immediately, and they talked for some time. To Conway, it is understood, Butler outlined his proposed defense when he is tried in Australia, and also his reasons for now being known as Weller.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—Robert J. Wilson, clerk in charge of Col. Ingersoll's office, attempted to commit suicide by swallowing prussic acid. He was prevented by Charles Wynne, a mining operator from Spokane. Wilson had domestic troubles and had been continually talking about suicide. Ingersoll said of Wilson's attempt: "It was a silly thing for him to do. It is a wonder to me, though, looking at all the misery there is, that more persons do not kill themselves."

Since Ingersoll aroused a storm of criticism by insisting suicide was no sin and in many cases desirable, and worthy, two of his clerks and two of his relatives have taken their own lives. The latter were Hattie Cooper, a third cousin of Ingersoll, and her mother, Mrs. Sarah S. Cooper of San Francisco.

NEW YORK, Feb. 17.—A company has been organized here the object of which, it is said, is to control the entire raisin industry in the country. The capital stock has already been subscribed in Wall Street, only \$500,000 as a starter, and the name of the corporation has not even been selected. As practically all the native raisins come from the grape region of California, the new company will make its headquarters at Fresno, and build a factory which is expected to absorb all others.

The new company has control of a novel device for taking the seeds out of grapes.

Alfred Nicholls is president of the new corporation.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 17.—[Copyrighted by the Associated Press.]—

The council of ministers as the result of an all-day session yesterday has decided to leave the pacification of Crete to the powers. The council also decided to send Karathodori Pasha to Crete as imperial high commissioner and to adopt military measures on the Greek frontier, as previously intimated; to appoint Marshal Edham Pasha, who directed operations against the insurgents of Zeitoun in 1896, to command the Turkish troops at Elaseoca and call out the first reserves of the third army corps now at Salonika. These measures, however, are for purely defensive purposes in order to enable the Turkish government to be prepared for all eventualities.

The sultan has informed the ambassadors of the powers that in view of the aggressive attitude of Greece he has been obliged to adopt measures required by the situation. The sultan took occasion to express his satisfaction at the landing of detachments of marines at Canea.

In spite of the peaceful outlook it is known that the debarkation of Greek forces on Crete caused a great sensation at the Yildiz Kiosk and it required the use of much tact on the part of the ambassadors to prevail upon the Porte to accept the situation.

Anti-Turkish manifestations are reported to have occurred at Arta and Preveza, Thessaly, shots having been fired and the Turkish frontier guard wounded. It is hoped that no further trouble will occur, although the Greek troops are gathering near the frontier.

CANEA, Feb. 17.—There was a meeting of the commanders of the foreign fleets today on the Italian flagship. It was resolved to take steps to bring about a more peaceful state of affairs on Crete.

A joint note was drawn up and sent by Admiral Canvaro, the Italian commander of the united fleet, to the Greek consul. The note informed the representative of Greece that any attack upon Canea, Retimo, Heraklion or Sita would be repelled by the warships of the foreign powers in Cretan waters. This step caused some alarm in Greek circles, but it is not believed to signify anything more serious than a warning to the Christians and the Greeks to cease fighting while the powers deliberate and come to some definite understanding regarding the future of Crete. It is still believed the powers will in some manner sanction the annexation of Crete by Greece.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—A dispatch to the Herald from St. Petersburg says: Entire satisfaction is felt here at the result of the joint action of the powers in Crete and Emperor William's warm adherence is much appreciated. Even England's action is praised by the Novoe Vremya. As a precautionary measure, serving as a caution to Greece to behave reasonably if the worst should come to them, the Russian squadron is ordered to remain off Piraeus. Its force of eight ships will be strengthened further by the addition of the battleship Imperator Nikolay II.

CHICAGO, Feb. 18.—Over a hundred delegates representing the Greek societies of Chicago had a lively time of it last night and fought and wrangled among themselves over the Cretan war. They met in conference

at one of the Greek churches to decide on some method of action in regard to the threatened Greco-Turkish war, and the trouble was caused by some of the more fiery Greeks who wanted to raise a regiment of volunteers to start immediately for Crete. This was opposed by the representatives of three societies who wanted to wait until war was assured before taking any action. For two hours the debate proceeded, both sides talking at once, and several times the participants had to be separated to keep them from coming to blows. Even after a compromise was reached by a mass meeting to be called for Saturday afternoon, the wrangle was continued until the candles that lighted the chapel were blown out and the church was in darkness.

The meeting then adjourned to the street, where there were more hot words, but the angered partisans were taken home before they had hurt each other.

DALLAS, Texas, Feb. 18.—The News tomorrow will print the following story, which its reporter cannot verify, except to strike disconnected fragments here and there:

One of the largest Cuban expeditions that has sailed from the gulf coast squared away tonight for the Queen of the Antilles from Paso Caballo, midway between Corpus Christi and Galveston. The expedition consisted of 300 thoroughly armed frontiersmen, mostly from Colorado, but many of them from north and west Texas and New Mexico. The men forming the expedition have been sent to south Texas points in squads of from five to twenty, many of them having passed through Houston and Galveston without suspicion as to their identity. They have been sent out from Dallas and Fort Worth and a few from Greenville and Texarkana by Cuban sympathizers. The vessel on which they sail tonight is owned by wealthy private parties, non-residents of Texas.

During the last thirty days arms and ammunition have been shipped as hollow ware, white lead, hospital supplies and musical instruments. In all 40,000 rounds of ammunition for rifle, shotguns and revolvers, which had been quietly gathered in north Texas, the bulk of it at Dallas and Fort Worth, have been shipped from these cities under the direction of Cuban sympathizers and forwarded in such packages as not to arouse suspicion of the character of their contents.

The crew consists of twenty thoroughly experienced sailors, at the head of whom is Capt. Miller, who has spent a great deal of time during the past two or three weeks in Galveston, Dallas and Houston. One of the crew is Bob Allan, the assistant gunner who helped Mike Walsh work the Hotchkiss gun in the sea fight last December on the south coast of Florida, when the Three Friends failed to land its expedition and had to put back.

HAVANA, via Key West, Feb. 18.—[Copyrighted by the Associated Press.]—The official reports are correct the insurgent army under General Gomez has been divided into small corps and Gomez himself is in full retreat before the continued advance of Weyler. Dispatches from Ciego de Aviel say the insurgent commander-in-chief with 4,000 men recrossed the military line