

RUMORS GROW MORE DEFINITE

Stories of Spanish Assaults on American Vessels Coming with Credentials.

SHIPS NAMED THAT MAY HAVE BEEN SUNK

Latest Story is that the Spanish Cruiser Infanta Isabel Fired Into and Disabled the American Schooner Irene Off Cuba.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 19.—A special to the Florida Citizen from Key West, Fla., says: A letter has been received here from Cuba stating that the Spanish gunboat Alcedo fired upon and sunk a supposed American schooner off Puerto Padre with sixteen people aboard. It is rumored that the schooner from Key West was the Golden State, which left here several weeks ago for a cargo of fruit, with a crew of sixteen men, and had to pass Puerto Padre, and may have been the vessel in question. The schooner Louis Hastings and Lily also sailed for fruit several days ago, but neither had sixteen men in their crew.

A later report is to the effect that the schooner Irene was fired into and disabled by the Spanish cruiser Infanta Isabel. The news was brought to this city by a vessel engaged in the cattle trade between this port and the mainland. The Irene is a small schooner owned in this port by Canary Islanders. She has been employed in the fish trade all winter, but in the past few days returned with a party of court officials from Puerto Padre, where a trial had been held. She afterward sailed for the fish trade at Punta Gorda, where, it was reported, an expedition against the schooner Irene was conducted. This is the schooner which had just arrived. The owner and family and the crew of the Irene live here, and considerable alarm has been occasioned by news received.

The latest news from Cuba is that the government has captured a schooner with arms and ammunition at Havana, which was to go to Santiago de Cuba. At Santa Clara several rifles were captured, hidden away in caves. Dolores Aleo, a Cuban girl, has been confined in prison for aiding in the concealment of the arms. A lieutenant of volunteers and the owner of a cafe were also imprisoned for their connection with this affair.

Havana political meeting at which it was decided the members of the Cuban political club would contribute each a day's wages to forward the cause of the Allies. The resolutions were made by various resolutions.

TAMPA, Fla., March 19.—Rumors regarding the sinking of the schooner Irene by the Spanish cruiser Infanta Isabel in the Florida straits are, but no positive information can be obtained, and the Spanish consul knows nothing.

NO REPLY YET FROM MADRID. WASHINGTON, March 19.—As far as can be learned the State department has not yet heard either from United States Minister Venenado in Havana or from the Spanish government on the question of the identity of the Spanish cruiser which fired upon the American schooner Irene. The correctness of the report which represents that the offending craft was the Conde de Venadito, although from the commander's statement that the schooner Irene was fired upon by the British flag, there is still a possibility that his story refers to another incident. It is also possible that the stars and stripes could be mistaken for the British ensign under the circumstances. Of course it is a question of fact that can easily be settled by the officers and crew of the Infanta Isabel whether or not the colors exhibited were American or British. It is in the hands of the Spanish government to reply to the question, although it may result in lugging Great Britain into it. In defense of the ensign, the Spanish minister in Havana, Sr. Gresham, was bound to accept the colors displayed in answer to her signal of distress. It is to be noted that the flag was fired upon the British flag, there is still a possibility that his story refers to another incident.

REPORT OF THE ASSAILANT. NEW YORK, March 19.—The cable dispatch from Havana published today in the effect that the commander of the Spanish cruiser, Conde de Venadito, had reported that he had fired on a steamer March 8 off Cape May, after being fired upon by a vessel replied to by the hoisting of the British flag on the steamer, has brought forth an affidavit from the Crossman of the Alliance. The affidavit is signed by a number of officers, who also make sworn statements that the American, and not the British, ensign was flying from the staff of the Alliance.

REINA REGENTE A WRECK

All Uncertainty as to Her Fate Definitely Settled at Last.

CRUISER FOUND AT BOTTOM OF THE SEA

Her Sister Ship Alfonso XII. Saw Twenty Inches of Her Masts Showing Above the Water—Four Hundred Lives Presumably Lost.

CADIZ, Marc. 19.—The Spanish cruiser Alfonso XII. has returned here after a search for the missing cruiser Reina Regente and reports having found the latter vessel sunk near Bajo Aceitunas, not far from the straits of Gibraltar. Only twenty inches of the Reina Regente's masts were above water. The Alfonso XII. has returned to the scene of the wreck with a number of divers and diving apparatus in order to recover the bodies of the crew of the sunken war ship. The Reina Regente was reported missing on March 13. She had just conveyed from Cadiz to Tangier the returning Moorish mission to Spain. The cruiser left Tangier on March 10 for Cadiz and her whereabouts have not been definitely ascertained since. Pieces of one of her boats and semaphore flags are reported to have been picked up along the shore near Ceuta and Tarifa. The crew of the Reina Regente were all and all hands are believed to have perished.

So soon as the reports of the disaster became known a number of Spanish and American ships were put on the alert. A French steamship on March 14 arrived at Gibraltar and reported having seen a big vessel, supposed to be the Reina Regente, ashore in Asturias Bay (probably Bago Aceitunas). The commander of the French craft reported that it was unable to assist the war ship on account of heavy weather.

On March 15 the steamer Mayfair arrived at Barcelona and reported sighting a vessel which she believed to be the Reina Regente on the morning of March 10, between Tarifa and Cape Espartel. The war ship had lost her funnels and bridge and was appearing heavily in flames. Although she was apparently unmanageable, the cruiser did not ask for assistance and therefore the Mayfair did not offer her any. The captain of the Mayfair added that he was of the opinion that she could not long have survived the storm in the condition in which she appeared to be at the time he saw her.

Later the Spanish cruisers Isla de Luzon and Alfonso XII. returned to Cadiz after having searched the Spanish and African coasts and the straits without any news of the missing war ship.

HER ARMAMENT TOO HEAVY. MADRID, March 19.—The positive news of the loss of the Spanish cruiser Reina Regente, which reached here from Cadiz, was the greatest commotion throughout Spain. The queen regent was greatly distressed. Her orders directed that the captain of the Reina Regente should be given the first report of the disaster reached here and by her directions prayers for the safety of the crew have been said continuously ever since.

REPORT THE REBELS DISPERSED. MADRID, March 19.—An official dispatch from Havana, Cuba, states that the military commander of the Oriental province of Cuba, states that the rebel bands in the Sierra de Colore mountains are dispersed, and that the rebels are being hunted among themselves because of the lack of leaders.

ADMITTED THE SECOND CONFESSION. Sadie Robinson Furnishes the Principal Evidence in the Gibbs Case. BUFFALO, March 19.—Dolly Russell, the woman who was charged with the murder of her husband, admitted today that she had not only killed her husband, but also had helped to dispose of his body. She admitted that she had been in the room with her husband when he was shot, and that she had seen the blood on his face. She also admitted that she had seen the body of her husband in the woods near the house. She said that she had been in the room with her husband when he was shot, and that she had seen the blood on his face. She also admitted that she had seen the body of her husband in the woods near the house.

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