

Arriba, P. R.

Nov 21, 1898

The

Asst. Adjt. Genl. Dist of San Juan,
San Juan, P. R.

Sir:-

I have the honor to make the following report of operations in my district for the past week.

I have soldiers stationed in 26 different places in the jurisdiction of Arriba & Hatillo and these soldiers are instructed to make daily and nightly patrols in the barrios where they are stationed, each squad having distinct limits. These soldiers have made these regular patrols and have reported to these Hdqrs at least once during the week, giving an account of the state of the country where they were stationed. They have been inspected from time to time by officers sent out from these Hdqrs. with small detachments and they have been found uniformly alert and vigilant.

The Commissarios of the various barrios have also reported to these Hdqrs. during the past week and in every case, with two exceptions, they have reported everything quiet and in good order in their districts. These two exceptions were two fires, one of which occurred on Saturday night in the barrio of Noto Viejo, about four miles from this place, where a house and out-

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buildings of the value of about \$1500. were burned. The fire was seen from this place and an officer was promptly dispatched with the Alcalde of the city, a few soldiers and a few policemen to the scene of the fire. They found on arrival there the patrol that I had in that district who stated that they were about one mile away when they first saw the fire, and went as fast as they could to the place. On arrival there they found the house in flames and a number of people standing around looking on but they could get nobody to assist them in putting out the flames, nor release a number of cattle about to be burned, several of which were afterwards burned before they could be released. They arrested no one as they saw no one committing any offense. My officer and the Alcalde arrested three men from evidence they got there. These men are now here in jail.

Last night about 11 o'clock while I was myself patrolling the town with the Alcalde a report was brought that another house near that district where the house was burned the night before was being burned. I immediately dispatched an officer with a detachment, the Alcalde, the Civil Judge and two policemen to the scene. They have

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not yet returned, 12 hours afterward and I am informed are on the track of the malefactors.

I have sent out scouting parties at night on one or two occasions during the week where plantation owners have come to me and informed me that they thought their houses would be burned that night and I have taken every precaution to preserve secrecy about these expeditions so as, if possible, to take the cueprits in the act and to mete out summary justice on them, but for some reason, in every case when squads are sent out for this purpose, nothing occurs. It is my opinion that there is an organized system of espionage on the patrols and detachments sent out from my Hdqrs. and that the bandits are given timely warning of the approach of the soldiers.

I am afraid that this is the beginning of new disorders in this district. I am constantly on the alert to gain information from every source that I can and it appears that the Comissarios, or sub-Alcaldes, of the barrios are almost to a man in sympathy, if not actually in league, with the bandits and malefactors. I have directed the Alcalde here to notify these sub-alcaldes they will be removed if they are not attentive to their duties and arrest parties committing crimes.

I learn also that there is a strong party here which

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is anxious to turn everybody out who is in office and the failure of the military authorities to do this is gradually increasing their dissatisfaction with the result that they are contemplating fresh disorders.

I am having the cases of the criminals now in jail tried as fast as possible & the new judge who has been here only a week seems to be doing very well.

While writing the above Capt Spence, whom I had sent to the scene of the burning last night, returned and reported to me that on his arrival there they found the houses burned and two or three more in sight in flames, that there appeared to be no doubt that the Commissario of the district where the burnings took place was in sympathy with the bandits. The Alcalde was directed and has removed the Commissario. What I need is authority to put some of these commissarios in jail.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

A. D. Tyson

Col. 6 U.S.V. Co. Comdg Post.

Quecks, Nov 21/98.

~~St~~
Spon, J. P.

Col. & W.M.S.

Dist. Report.

Two pins. Also found. Com.
Missions in large with habit.
Autarky - espous to furnish com.
Missions. Organized mission.

Quecks