

St. Thomas Times, 5. oktober 1878, (page 2):

ST. CROIX.

St. Croix, 5th October 3 p. m. No fresh disturbances or fires reported since last night. The rioters have now taken to the bush and many prisoners continue to be brought in. Several of the ringleaders have been captured. The road from Bassin to Fredriksted is now open and confidence is being generally restored. The French man-of-war "Labourdonnais" on seeing a fresh outbreak of the fire left Bassin hurriedly last night and returned there this afternoon. H. M. S. "Tourmaline" arrived at Frederiksted yesterday afternoon and will remain there for the present.

THE RIOT OF ST CROIX.

(From the St. Thomas Lloyds, 3rd instant.)

THE all-absorbing topic which is just now engrossing public attention is connected with the above subject. Since our issue of last evening various reports have been in circulation, and much uneasiness felt for the safety of St. Croix. The French steamer "Desirade" did not leave, as was reported, owing to some slight defect in her machinery. She however left today at 1 o'clock.

The following telegram was received by us to-day

"Rioters reached Anna's Hope. Soldiers and Volunteers gone meet them. Twenty estates burnt. All well, Bassin as yet."

The latest official information received to day, and placed at our disposal, we are happy to state, is of a very agreeable nature, and we take much pleasure in giving it early publicity. The telegram reads: -

"Rioters defeated at Anna's Hope; Great slaughter of rioters who are in full flight; several prisoners taken."

(4th instant)

As the public is continually on the look out for information concerning the state of affairs connected with the late riot in St. Croix, we have made arrangements to obtain the latest particulars and, such as they are, we will give them publicity immediately of their receipt. The telegrams received this morning state:

"Bassin still safe; Numbers shot; rebels cowed."

The following came to hand at 14 o'clock:

"Governor arrived in Arno from West End. Twenty prisoners. About fifty rioters killed yesterday. Road cleared. Bassin quiet. Desirade for West End thence St. Thomas refugees.

Later.

We have received the following

"French Man-of-War making for Basin."

Her Britannic Majesty's War stmr. Tourmaline, left Barbados, on the 2nd at 2 p. m. and musts, ere this, have arrived at Frederiksted.

(To-day's Lloyds.)

We have received the following telegrams from Bassin Correspondent at 11 o'clock:

Principal ringleaders caught. Rumoured executions commence to-morrow. Quiet in Bassin.

Insurgents in South Side. The British steamer Tourmaline in West End."

[One of the above ringleaders is said to be a descendant of Bourdeaux, of 1848 repute. - Ed. S. Ths. Times.]

GRAPHIC DETAILS OF THE RIOT IN ST CROIX.

Through the courtesy of the French Consul our representative was admitted among the few passengers who left here on Thursday last for St. Croix in the Steamer "Desirade."

The following notes have been collected hurriedly by him from trustworthy sources during his short stay at Christiansted and Frederiksted: -

The Rioters at 5:1 o'clock, on the 1st instant, entered the town of Frederiksted and marched to the Fort armed with stoues and cutlasses and attempted to gain entrance therein. On the approach of the rioters, the police who were in the Fort, fired black cartridges at them to make them disperse, but the efforts of the Police were futile and they then had to close the gates of the Fort. The rioters then went across to Robert Flynn's rum shop and set it on fire, and from thence commenced their diabolical work of ruin and rapine. Fire succeeded fire until the greater part of the town was in flames. Satisfied so far with their orgie, as regarded the town, the rioters started for the country, setting fire to the cane pieces, works, and houses, dealing destruction right and left, leaving a fiery track behind them to mark their fiendish course. As soon as the town population got over their first stupor, the armed themselves with every article capable of dealing death. Patrols were formed and many drunken rioters were taken prisoners. A courier was despatched immediately to Christiansted stating their predicament and asking for immediate assistance. Lieutenant Oestermann was despatched in the morning with the small farce that could be spared - 25 men - in a large trash cart. At Carlton two soldiers were left in care of the waggon and the detachment proceeded on its way on foot. The ronds were cleared of the rioters by the soldiers, and about ten o'clock they arrived at Frederiksted. On entering the town, martial law was read from the drum-head forbidding any three persons to stand talking together. On the arrival of His Excellence Governor Garde, in Christiansted, he proclaimed martial law and had posters stuck up to that effect. A detachment of soldiers and volunteers, under the Command of His excellency, which left Christiansted on the 3rd for Frederiksted, killed about fifty rioters on its way. They met no opposition until they reached Anna's Hope, where a slight barricade was made and resistance attempted, but the rioters were dispersed with the first volley. The volunteers and soldiers returned in the steamer "Arno" to Christiansted yesterday and landed about 9:30 a. m. The steamer "Desirade" received all the refugees that were on board the "Arno" and sent three of her boats ashore to get ammunitions, bedding &c., for the soldiers in Frederiksted, to which place she

proceeded at 2 o'clock. As the "Desirade" was leaving Christiansted, she sighted the French War Steamer "Labourdonnais" making for the port, and noticed while in sight, that she had anchored off the harbour. At about 7 o'clock the "Labourdonnais" was perceived entering the roadstead of Fredriksted, where she was ordered by His excellence to protect the town for the night. The British man-of-war "Tourmaline" was in Frederiksted when the "Desirade" arrived.

The two soldiers left with the cart at Carlton were found with their ears cut off and skulls fractured; they were buried yesterday afternoon.

During the burial, a boy flung a brick at one of the soldiers, striking him in the head; he was immediately arrested by a policeman, but he gave battle, and every one clamoured for his blood, - how it terminated nothing is known, as the boat of the Desirade left the shore at the moment.

The "Desirade" left Fredriksted at 8:30 p m. yesterday with about 100 refugees, principally women and children, for this place arriving here at 12:30. We are happy to state that besides the two unfortunate soldiers and Mr. Fontaine no other life was lost.

All the young men of Christiansted and Frederiksted capable of bearing arms were called on by the Governor in his publication of the Martial law, and they responded heartily to the call. The town of Bassin is well fortified, field pieces and guards being posted at the principal entrances and patrols kept up all night. The presence of the men-of-war is sufficient protection for West End. It is supposed that operations will commence to-day in order to scout the country until all rioters are apprehended. For this purpose, the two men-of-war would be left in charge of the two soldiers and volunteers would take the field.

With the execution of rioters taken in the act of resisting the troops or of setting fire to property no one has been shot, all those made prisoners will be judged and sentenced in accordance with law.

Per schr. "Vigilant"

P. S. - later news received from St. Croix states that all prisoners taken in Frederiksted were shot. French man-of-war arrived off Christiansted as "Vigilant" was leaving.

The principal ringleader John Lonis was brought into town by the volunteers. Between seventy and eighty rioters have up to present been shot.