

REPORTED ON WARPAPER

PERIODICAL REFERENCE FORM

80-a-15

ATTENTION IS INVITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

FEB 20 1935

Clipping

The Star and Herald M Dated

SAN BLAS INDIANS RE

PANAMANS MASSACRED AS INDIANS DO WAR DANCES AROUND VICTIMS' BODIES

Noted
J. W. W.

Explorer Marsh's Presence in Country Unofficially Mentioned in Connection with Serious Uprising.—Native Police Flee from Islands Bringing Tales of Horrible Slaughter of Panamans Throughout Territory

San Blas Indians are on the war path and twenty-two Panamans and three Spaniards are reported to have been massacred Sunday.

Fleeing from the Indians who commenced hostilities Saturday, twelve Panaman police and Government employes reached Colon yesterday on a motor-sloop and brought first news of the trouble, which had just begun when they left.

Details of the massacre of Luis Mojica, a nephew of the Panama Indian Commissioner to San Blas, were brought to Colon yesterday by Edison Whitaker, skipper of the motor sloop "Ambition."

VICTIM'S EYES GOUGED OUT

him and then stuck knives into the dead body. Both the man's eyes were gouged out, his tongue cut out, and the Indians stuck a lighted cigarette in his mouth and did a war dance around the dead body, according to a story related by Whitaker to the Colon Port authorities.

A protest demonstration in which more than two thousand persons in Colon city participated last night, followed the receipt of the news of the massacre of Panamans at San Blas.

Several Indians were beat up in Colon by an infuriated mob armed with sticks. The mob went through the streets seeking out the Indians and many were badly beaten, it is reported.

MARSH REPORTED AS INSTIGATOR

The disturbance is connected, according to unconfirmed, unofficial reports, with the presence at Carti of explorer Richard O. Marsh, self-styled "discoverer" of "blond" Indians. Mr. Marsh is said to be there with moving picture camera men.

Marsh is alleged to have hoisted the American flag over the chiefs houses and told the Indians their territory belongs to Colombia.

Semi-officially it was reported late last night that the American Legation at Panama City has received a "declaration of independence" from the San Blas Chiefs. The "Declaration" is said to be written in the English language. It is claimed that the reputed "Declaration" sets forth that the Indians proclaim the independence of the San Blas region and the establishment of the "Republic of Tuia."

INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNCONFIRMED

Efforts to communicate with the American Legation last night were fruitless and the report could not be verified. It was further reported, semi-officially, that a copy of the alleged "declaration of independence" is in the possession of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Panamanian Government.

There is no communication with San Blas. The uprising is said to have begun at Tupila, Tigre, Playon Chico and other settlements. The number of dead may be vastly more than the twenty-seven reported killed when the two boats fled from Tigre island Sunday.

Porvenir and other settlements were deserted by Panamanian authorities and civilians who were warned by friendly Indians.

INDIAN COMMISSIONER IN CITY

The twelve Panamanian police and government employees who reached here yesterday were from Porvenir. They told Secretary of Government and Justice they were poorly armed and had to flee leaving the offices open. For more than a month, they declared, reports have been circulating in San Blas that the Indians were preparing a conspiracy against the Police and intended to declare the San Blas region an independent nation.

Commissioner of Indian affairs, Andres Mojica, Panamanian Governor of San Blas, has been in the City several weeks on official business. He said yesterday he had heard of the plans of the Indians.

It is unofficially reported that at Carti, Sunday Mr. Marsh raised the American flag over a house where the Indians were holding a Carnival dance and told them they were under the protection of the American flag. None of these reports can be confirmed.

EYEWITNESS TELLS STORY

Skipper Whitaker of the motor-sloop "Ambition" told the Colon

Port authorities on arrival yesterday that he was anchored off Tigre Island at 10 o'clock Sunday morning when more than a hundred Indians came to him and asked if it was time for the Carnival festivities to begin.

Whitaker says he answered that in Panama the Carnival begins at noon. The Indians declared, according to Whitaker, that they were going to "begin the feast" immediately and that throughout the islands and over the entire San Blas region the Carnival was going to be celebrated.

A few minutes later Whitaker says he saw the massacre begin. Indians, bloodthirsty and crazed, began slashing Panamanians on every hand. The helpless natives tried in vain to flee from the Indians but the surprise was complete.

Whitaker said that he was an eyewitness to the horrible murder of young Mojica. The streets of Tigre Island were strewn with dead Panamanians before Whitaker got away.

TO KILL OUT ALL NATIVES

The Indians told him they were carrying out the same bloodthirsty program throughout the San Blas region, until not a single Panamanian is left alive. These were the orders of their Chieftain Coleman, Whitaker said the Indians declared.

Raul Herrera and Victor M. Grimes called a protest mass meeting outside the Colon Railroad station last night and more than two thousand persons joined in a parade to the Government Palace, where they called upon the Governor to take action at once.

Colon's Governor told the crowd that the Government is taking immediate steps to put a stop to the slaughter and that if any foreigner is found to be responsible for the trouble he will be severely punished.

Panamanian Police reserves here and in Colon were preparing last night to leave hurriedly today for San Blas.