

GUSTAV BOCK DEAD.

Well-Known Cuban Cigar Manufacturer Dies of Pneumonia, Aged 74.

Gustav Bock, the well-known Cuban cigar manufacturer, died yesterday of pneumonia at his home in Havana, in his seventy-fourth year. He was born in Hamburg, Germany, and went to Cuba as a lad and obtained employment with a cigarmaker, and later went into business for himself. He was the first to pack cigars of fine quality twenty-five in a box instead of fifty, and sold them in this country under value to work up his business.

In 1878 he joined with T. de P. Alvarez in forming the firm of Henry Clay, Bock & Co., of which he was managing Director, and was also President of the Havana Tobacco Company.

During the insurrection in Cuba, which resulted in the Spanish-American war, Mr. Bock's interests were with the Spanish Government. The amount of tobacco decreased in the District of Pinar del Rio until Mr. Bock took 1,500 of his hands and transferred them to the Isle of Pines, where they were not molested by the insurgents, but the soil was not so productive of the grade of tobacco the Bock company was using.

When the war was declared between the United States and Spain, Mr. Bock was in Europe and tried to get back to Havana, but the way was barred. On being held up at Key West he declared himself to be a German subject, and managed to get a permit to go through the blockading fleet on the steamship Pollaria, but the Cubans held him up again, declaring that he was a Spaniard and not a German.

They also said that Mr. Bock was a Colonel in a Spanish volunteer regiment and called for his arrest as a spy. So he did not go to Havana, but remained at Key West. He finally reached there from Mexico, through the influence of the United States and found that his business interests had been injured in his absence. Gen. Blanco had taken 1,000 oxen from the Bock plantations for the Spanish troops, which he believed he could have saved had he been on the island at the time.

After the Spanish war he consolidated his firm with an English syndicate, and afterward retired from business.

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