

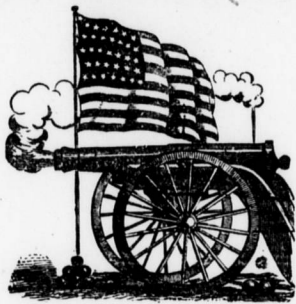
The Columbian.

VOL. 33

BLOOMSBURG, PA., THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 1898.

NO. 17

WAR DECLARED.



Fighting Begins in Grim Earnest.

CITIZEN-SOLDIERS RESPONDING TO THE NATION'S CALL FOR TROOPS.

Pennsylvania to Furnish Ten Thousand Men to Assist in Driving the Spaniards From the Island of Cuba.

SEVEN SPANISH SHIPS CAPTURED.

The spell has broken at last, and it will now be seen whether or not the Spanish Government can retain her hold on the island of Cuba. Before Minister Woodford had delivered the ultimatum of the United States the Spanish Government handed him his passports. This action on the part of Spain was accepted by the United States as a declaration of war.

President McKinley has exerted every possible effort to bring about a peaceful settlement, but to no avail, and henceforth it is to be war. But we believe we are in the right. We take up arms against the Spaniards in a just cause,—to battle for the freedom of a down-trodden people, and also to protect our own interests on the island.

FRIDAY.

After a Cabinet meeting this afternoon the ships of war were ordered on their mission of blood and force.

It is understood that their destination is Havana. Before many days have passed it is believed that their guns will be belching fiery defiance in the shape of shot and shell at Morro Castle.

As has been heretofore stated the first step will be to proclaim a blockade of the port of Havana. It is not intended, however, to have a long drawn out blockade. According to the best advices President McKinley believes that the war should be short, sharp and decisive. He favors a policy of aggression quite at variance with that which would contemplate a protracted and inactive blockade. Efforts will be made, therefore, to make the blockade brief but effectual.

In order to do this troops will be sent down from Key West to form a junction with the Cuban insurgents and march to Havana. They will probably be landed at Guanabacoa or Cienfuegos.

As soon as the troops have opened fire on Havana from the land side, Captain Sampson will give the inhabitants of Havana the usual twenty-four hours' notice of a bombardment.

Harassed by the American and insurgent soldiers from the land and Captain Sampson's strong fleet from the water, it is thought that the Spaniards will be compelled to surrender Havana in short order.

This it is believed would virtually end the war.

While Captain Sampson's North Atlantic squadron is operating outside Havana Harbor to silence the batteries of Morro Castle, Commodore Schley's flying squadron will cruise around in the vicinity of Porto Rico. He will intercept the Spanish flotilla if it attempts to steam towards Cuba for the purpose of raising the Havana blockade. It is likely, therefore, that in the vicinity of Porto Rico, the greatest naval engagement in the history of the world will take place.

SATURDAY.

President McKinley's proclamation notifying all nations of the blockade of Havana Harbor, the capture of the lumber laden Spanish ship Buena Ventura by the American cruiser Nashville and the passage by Congress of the Volunteer Army bill were the three great events in connection with the Spanish-American war to-day.

The capture of the Spanish merchant vessel Buena Ventura by the gunboat Nashville, constitutes the real beginning of hostilities. The Nashville, it is stated here, fired two shots at the vessel, and is therefore entitled to the honor of having fired the first shot in the Spanish-American war.

The Spanish steamer Buena Ven-

tura, is a vessel of about 1000 tons which sailed recently from Pascagoula Miss., for Rotterdam loaded with lumber. A gun was fired from the port battery of the Nashville but the enemy's ship held her way having given the shot. For two minutes the Nashville kept up the chase and then tried another shot that passed apparently within a rod of the Spaniard's bow and splashed the spray from the crest of the waves for a mile beyond. The officer on the Spaniard's bridge at once reversed her engines, while a man ran aft and hastily lowered her flag.

The Buena Ventura's officers and men appeared to accept their situation as gracefully as possible.

Another great event, which, however, lacks official confirmation, is contained in the report that Minister Sewell and Admiral Miller took formal possession of the Hawaiian Islands in the name of the United States as a coaling station on April 15.

Owing to the secrecy which must naturally attend acts of war, it is impossible to gain any information regarding this report at the War and Navy Departments. It is generally believed, however, among members of Congress, most of whom look upon such an action as a good strategic move. Hawaii would form an excellent base of operations for a Spanish fleet which might attempt havoc on the Pacific coast, where the fortifications are by no means as modern or numerous as on the Atlantic coast.

While there is no knowledge that Spain contemplates any naval operations in Pacific waters, still it is the unexpected that must be looked for and guarded against in time of war, so the seizure of Hawaii is regarded as a timely precautionary measure.

The notice of the blockade of Havana is not expected to precipitate naval hostilities. The American war vessels will remain well out of range of the guns of Morro Castle and the shore batteries, so that there is no likelihood of a gun being fired for an indefinite period.

Three more Spanish vessels were taken to-day. The newly captured prizes are the Spanish steam ship Miguel Jover, valued \$400,000. She belonged to the Piniello Line Barcelona. She was captured by the United States gun boat Helena.

The Helena did not start with the fleet yesterday morning but remained at Key West, until today, when she steamed out to sea. She was cruising about 150 miles in a southwesterly direction when the Jover hove in sight. The Helena fired a blank shot and the Jover instantly hove to. The Jover was bound from New Orleans for Barcelona, via Havana.

The United States cruiser Detroit fired on and captured the Spanish steamer Catalina, 3491 tons which left Cadiz March 7, and was bound from New Orleans for Barcelona via Havana, for which latter port she was making when taken. When the first shot was fired her captain made a desperate effort to escape, and the chase was prolonged for eight miles. Finally a solid shot brought her to. She was carrying a cargo of 6000 bundles of staves. The other Spanish vessel captured was the Saturnina at Ship Island, Miss. She was taken by the United States revenue cutter Winona.

MONDAY.

War against Spain was formally declared to-day by the Congress of the United States, the joint resolution to that effect adopted by Congress was signed by the President. As set forth in the President's message requesting

Congress to act at once, the President was desirous that official recognition should be given hostilities so that the definition of the international states of the United States as a belligerent power may be made known and our international rights maintained.

The formal declaration of war by Congress is as follows:

Be it enacted, etc.
First—That war be and the same is hereby declared to exist and that war has existed since the 21st day of April, A. D., 1898, including said day between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain.

Second—That the President of the United States be and he hereby is directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several states as may be necessary to carry this act into effect.

President McKinley to-day issued a requisition upon the Governors of the States for 125,000 volunteers. These volunteers are to serve two years unless mustered out of the service before the expiration of that time, and are allotted to the different States according to their population under the census of 1890. The Governors are requested to designate the organizations of the National Guard to be called out, and to recruit from their States volunteers to fill out their quotas. They are to be assembled at the points of rendezvous in the several States within a week's time, where they will be turned over to the War Department and be rapidly hurried to the front.

In every case the Governors are notified that the National Guard where they now exist as efficient and well officered bodies, are to be given the preference over ununiformed and untrained companies organized up on the spur of the emergency. In most States the National Guards so mustered into service will take with them their company and regimental officers. It will, however, be necessary for them to be reappointed by the Governors before they can be commissioned as officers of the national volunteer establishment.

The entire forces to be called into the service sum up to ninety regiments of infantry, five regiments of cavalry, thirteen batteries of light artillery, and twenty-two batteries of foot artillery. This force will be organized into three army corps of twenty-seven regiments of infantry, one regiment of cavalry and three battalions of artillery each. The part of the provisional force not included in these corps will be the Texas quota to be used in guarding the Mexican frontier and the troops which will be needed to garrison the coast left vacant in the West by the concentration of the regular forces on the Gulf.

The following is a copy of the telegram sent to each of the Governors of the States and Territories informing them what will be expected under the President's call for troops:

"The number of troops from your State under the call of the President, dated April 23, 1898, will be

"It is the wish of the President that the regiments of the National Guard or State militia shall be used as far as their number will permit, for the reason that they are armed, equipped and drilled. Please wire as early as possible, what equipments, ammunition, arms, blankets, tents, etc., you have and what additional you will require. Please also state when troops will be ready for muster to the United States service. Details to follow by mail.

(Signed) "RUSSELL A. ALGER,
"Secretary of War."

TUESDAY.

The President has issued a proclamation containing the declaration of war and setting forth the regulations that will be observed by this Government with regard to Spanish boats in American ports, to neutral flags and so on.

Secretary Sherman took his farewell of the Cabinet to-day and Assistant Secretary of State William R. Day was confirmed by the Senate as Secretary, and John B. Moore was confirmed as First Assistant. Senator Sherman's host of friends express great regret over his retirement from public life though they generally agree that after his extraordinarily long service it would have been asking too much of him to expect him to continue in office.

The army reorganization bill was agreed to in Congress to-day and finally passed both houses and was signed by the President. The House conferees agreed to the Senate

Saturday Next



We put on sale several dozen styles of

MEN'S AND YOUNG MEN'S FINE SPRING SUITS,

every one of which has sold for \$10.00, and worth every penny of it, will be sold Saturday at

\$7.90

The backward season has not moved them, hence the price.

SATURDAY NEXT we place on sale entire lines of \$7.00 and \$7.50 all wool suits in all the new and handsome spring weaves at

\$5.90

SATURDAY, Men's and Boys' cambric colored shirts, 19 cts.
" Boys' wash pants, small sizes, 10 cts.
" Men's balbriggan underwear, 19 cts.
" Young Men's pearl fedora hats, regular \$1.50 grade, 98 cts.
" Boys' blue, green or mixed golf caps, leather or cloth visors, 19 cts.

Gidding & Co.

amendments requiring that the quota of militia from the various States and Territories shall be in companies, troops and batteries, in order to be accepted by the President. That will satisfy to some extent the complaint coming from all parts of the country that only parts of regiments or companies will be taken.

No very important news was received at the Navy Department today as far as can be learned. The American fleet at Hong Kong has been obliged to leave that port under the neutrality proclamation of the British Government, and it is believed that it has gone to Manila, which port, it is expected, will fall into American hands.

Spanish rule in the Philippines is more of a shell, if possible, than in Cuba, and the population in the Philippines is so much greater than in Cuba that it will not take long to turn the Spanish out of their possessions there. That is expected to be one of the early developments of the war.

The President is being besieged just now with applications for appointment as generals, colonels, etc., in the army. It is generally understood that Consul General Lee, in the very fitness of things, will be given a command.

Postmaster General Smith issued a notice to-day stopping all letters intended for Spain or her colonies. Now that war exists, there will be no mail communications between the two countries, and letters intended for Spain will be returned to the senders whenever that is possible.

WEDNESDAY.

There was no apparent change in the situation to-day. The blockading squadron remains passive before Havana with no present purpose of bombarding, or of drawing the fire of the shore batteries.

As to the reports of the imminence of a naval battle off the Philippine Islands, the naval authorities at Washington seriously doubt whether the Spanish fleet will make a stand against the American ships. Their reason for this belief is that the Spanish fleet is very inferior in number and quality to the American force under Dewey.

The department, therefore, is satisfied that the Spanish fleet will not go to do battle on the high seas with Admiral Dewey, but will remain in port to secure the protection of the

batteries of Manila. An engagement is not expected for at least two days. Without giving any explanation for setting this time, the department allows it to be surmised that the estimate is based on its knowledge of Admiral Dewey's whereabouts.

There is no certainty that there will be an engagement at all in the immediate future, the main purpose of the expedition being to seize and hold some suitable Spanish territory in the Philippines as a base of operations in Asiatic waters. It is possible that this can be done without attacking the other at all, by seizing a suitable port on some adjacent island, without fortifications, the sympathy of whose inhabitants is towards the insurgents.

In the War Department there is a growing belief that the campaign proper in Cuba will not be in full swing before next fall, when the rainy season has ended. That belief, however, has not prevented the officers whose duty it is to get the troops together from pushing their work with the greatest energy.

Thus within twelve hours after the Hull bill became a law, the department was able to begin to send out circulars prescribing the methods to be followed in recruiting the regular army up to its full war strength of 61,000 men. The enormous amount of work involved in thus increasing the army, regular and volunteer, has caused General Miles to abandon his Southern trip for the present.

The officials of the department were overwhelmed to-day with all sorts of protests and appeals against their action in making the assignments of troops among the volunteer forces and many changes may be looked for.

Several of the United States Consuls who were located at different points in the island of Cuba, among them James N. Springer, Joseph L. Hance and Mr. Brice, are at Washington and have been in conference with State Department officials, and have communicated a large amount of important information concerning the situation of affairs at Havana, Cardenas and Matanzas. These Consuls took their departure at the time Consul General Lee left Havana, they having been ordered to turn over their affairs to the British Consuls at those points.

Consul Springer, who has been

many years on the island, and thoroughly understands the condition of affairs and the character of the Spanish people who control the island, says the Spaniards will not surrender without a stubborn resistance. He admits that the Spanish army is not very efficient, and in most part ill-provisioned and poorly equipped. The soldiers have received no pay for many months, and the officers have only received half-pay. The supplies for many months past, the Consul says, have been short but latterly they have been receiving several shipments. The capture of the Panama, which was taken by the United States war ship Mangrove yesterday, with its large cargo of supplies of various kinds for the army and the Spaniards on the island, will, the Consul says, be a serious loss. He thinks that General Blanco, the Cuban commander, will be able to raise quite a large army of Spaniards for defensive purposes, and if they could secure supplies, would be able to hold out for many months. He thinks that the insurgent forces are greatly exaggerated, and that they cannot muster, all told, more than 35,000 or 40,000 men. The insurgents, he says, are also poorly fed and equipped. If they could be supplied with arms and munitions, together with food and clothing, by the United States, they might be able to give Blanco and his Spanish army a good deal of trouble.

Consul Hance, who has been a resident at Cardenas, and is familiar with the situation of affairs at that point, does not believe that the occupation of Cuba by our forces will be a difficult task. As to whether the Cubans would be competent to establish a stable government once the Spaniards have been forced from the island, the Consul is not disposed to give a decided answer.

There is much diversity of opinion at Washington among military and naval authorities concerning the proposed landing in Cuba, at a port to be opened by our fleet, of a brigade of regular infantry, cavalry and artillery, containing in all 5000 or 6000 men, to establish and guard a base of supplies.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.