



## THE WAR SITUATION

### HAVANA BLOCKADED AND NOT A SHOT FIRED.

No Battles Have Been Fought and Both Countries Awaiting a Conflict.—The Recent Events in Hostilities.

The war situation is substantially this: The blockading squadron remains passive before Havana with no present purpose of bombarding or of drawing the fire of the shore batteries. The strategic purpose of effective blockade of the Cuban capital is being accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the authorities. There is no indication that a part of the fleet will be withdrawn for the purpose of affording additional protection to north Atlantic ports.

As to the reports of the imminence of a naval battle off the Philippine islands, the naval authorities 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 Admiral 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 and is not expecting an engagement for about two days.

The very fact that the Madrid officials have rather ostentatiously declared that the Spanish fleet has sailed to bombard the cities on the north Atlantic coast is taken as a certain indication at the navy department of the utter improbability of such a movement. If this were contemplated, the Spanish officials would be the very last to make their purpose public.

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.

Including France, four out of the six great powers of Europe have declared their neutrality, namely, Great Britain, France, Italy and Russia. There remain of the great powers Germany and Austria, neither of which has yet acted.

#### WAR SUMMARY.

The Events of Note During the Last Couple Days Since War Has Begun.

The valuable Spanish steamer Panama, laden with supplies for the Spaniards, was captured by the light-house tender Mangrove while trying to run the Havana blockade.

The National Guard has received orders to be in camp at Mt. Gretna this, Thursday, evening.

No one killed yet in this "war."

The Havana Spaniards caused the death of thousands of Cubans by starvation. Since the blockade they see the same fate staring them in the face, provisions getting scarce and enormously high in price.

McKinley proposes to hand back to the Spaniards the prize vessels captured so far.

All the Powers have declared strict neutrality, and will take no part in our quarrel with Spain.

Great excitement exists in Havana, and the people were leaving for the open country in all directions.

Secretary Sherman says the Government does not intend to send the regular army or the militia to Cuba yet, but that the insurgents will be effectively armed and equipped, and then Rear Admiral Sampson and Gen. Gomez will co-operate against the common enemy.

The Queen Regent of Spain has issued a royal decree declaring war with the United States has begun. Spain reserves the right to fit out privateers, but will regard as pirates foreign privateers, even though they have letters of marque from the United States. Maritime rules to be observed during hostilities are defined. The London Mail's Madrid correspondent says Spain will use privateers in fact though not in name.

The news from Madrid obtained in spite of the Government's strenuous efforts to hide the truth, shows that Spain has desperate troubles at home, which divert her attention from the war with us and cripple her as an antagonist. The Spaniards are now hoping that after we whip them Europe may save them from utter annihilation, as the Powers saved China from Japan and Greece from Turkey.

United States Consul Triay, family, and fugitives from Guantanamo, Province of Santiago de Cuba, who have reached Kingston, Jamaica, say Spanish troops are concentrating in the principal seacoast cities and laying waste by fire interior towns and plantations. They fear the devastation will be complete before Americans can occupy that territory.

The Cuban Junta at St. Thomas says that half the Porto Ricans would help

us capture San Juan, the capital of the island, if we sent an invading army to co-operate with the flying squadron. Martial law has been declared in the island.

President McKinley declined to permit a guard to be placed around the White House. The city's water supply, however, is guarded, and it is probable that troops will be detailed to guard the public buildings.

Fire was opened on the American fleet from Morro Castle at 11 o'clock Friday night. About ten shots were fired, but the gunnery was wretched and none took effect. The American ships did not reply.

Cable communication with Havana has been cut off, preparatory to a decisive blow by Sampson's fleet. Strict censorship of despatches has been established at Key West.

Admiral Sampson's fleet divided into three squadrons, blockading Matanzas, Cardenas, Havana and Mariel. The blockading ships off Havana chased a cruiser supposed to be a big Spaniard, cleared for action, and discovered that she was an Italian.

The cruiser Detroit captured near Havana the Spanish steel steamer Catalina, valued, with cargo, at \$35,720.

The gunboat Helena took into Key West as prize the Spanish steamer Miguel Jover, valued at \$40,000.

The torpedo-boat Porter captured a rum-laden Spanish coaster east of Havana. Eighty-two men, comprising the captains and crews of the captures to date, now await disposition by the prize court, which is composed of G. Bowne Patterson and two other Key West attorneys.

In behalf of Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales held a council to approve the neutrality proclamation. While the newspapers of Continental Europe generally are sympathizing with Spain, the St. Petersburg Viedomosti says that the long-standing friendship between Russia and the United States "excludes every idea of an unfriendly attitude upon the part of Russia" now.

Reports that the hostility of the German press to America is not shared by the German Government, which will follow England's lead in international action rather than that of Austria or France.

Admiral Dupont gives his opinion that, though the navies of the United States and of Spain are about equal in number, the American ships are the more powerful and, beside, Spain is at the added disadvantage of having to fight far from a base of operations.

The Spanish third-class battleship Numancia, which has been reconstructed in Toulon, France, was towed away before being finished to avoid being held under the neutrality laws.

Army officers are trying to formulate plans to do away with any opposition the State militia may have to being mustered into the regular army under existing law.

The American liners St. Louis and New York were turned over to the United States Navy. The name of the latter ship will be Harvard.

One hundred and sixty-five Harvard undergraduates notified the college that they will join their regiments.

Gen. Brooke, commanding the troops at Chickamauga Park, has organized them into the First Army Corps and assigned commanders to the various divisions and brigades.

The Rome correspondent of the London Times was informed that we offered to submit the question of the Maine to arbitration and that Spain accepted the offer, but that nothing came of it.

Gen. Woodford, who is expected to return from Paris within two weeks, will not be greeted as enthusiastically as Gen. Lee was.

The presumption that the American flag was hoisted over the Hawaiian Islands on April 15 is negated by a denial in a Hawaiian Government organ of that date that such action was contemplated. At the same time a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee declares that the islands would be a strong strategic point and that as such it would be the part of wisdom to take possession of them at this time.

Many Greeks have applied at our Consulate in Athens to enlist in the United States Army.

Went to See Bryan. Last Thursday afternoon about fifteen of our people of the Democratic persuasion joined the Bellefonte contingent which went to Phillipsburg to participate in the reception tendered Wm. J. Bryan, the late Democratic candidate for president. There were over a hundred on the train when it left Bellefonte. At Mill Hall the train made connection with the train which the free silver champion was on en route to Phillipsburg. All the party had an opportunity to meet Mr. Bryan and were very favorably impressed with the gentleman. At all the stations along the road there were crowds to see Mr. Bryan and he was kept busy shaking hands and speaking a few

words to the people. At Phillipsburg an immense crowd turned out to see him. He delivered two speeches, one in the open and the other in the opera house. From the applause he constantly received during his discourse it is an assured fact that the silver plank will have a prominent place in the next National Democratic platform. It was the first visit of Mr. Bryan to this part of the state and he was flatteringly received everywhere.

#### Ringling Bros. Excursions.

Arrangements have been completed by which all who wish to attend the performances of Ringling Bros.' World's Greatest Shows in Bellefonte, Tuesday, May 10, can secure special excursion rates on all lines of travel. This will be the only point in this vicinity where the great show will exhibit during the present season, and those who fail to see it will miss the grandest amusement event of the year. Since last season Ringling Bros.' famous exhibition has been doubled in size and is now beyond all question or doubt the largest and best combined circus, menagerie and hippodrome in the United States. The performance is given by over 300 high salaried specialists, in three rings, on two stages, in mid-air, and upon a huge quarter-mile hippodrome track. The grand free street parade which takes place at 10 o'clock on the morning of the exhibition is the most magnificent display ever seen. Don't miss it.

#### Counterfeit Nabbed.

Wednesday last week while constable Schenk, of Bellwood, was conducting a constable's sale at the residence of B. F. Stoner, in that town, a package containing twenty-five counterfeit nickels burst open. The constable immediately went to Altoona and notified U. S. Commissioner A. P. McLeod, who issued a warrant for Stoner's arrest. Stoner's house was searched resulting in the find of some babbitt metal, plaster of paris, chip cork, white sand, charcoal and other counterfeiters' paraphernalia. Stoner was arrested and taken before Commissioner McLeod, who, in default of \$500 bail, had Stoner imprisoned.

#### Centre Hall's News Service.

Centre Hall in many respects is an up-to-date little town, in having conveniences of all sorts. The last added is a news service by which our people are on an equal footing with the large cities for latest war dispatches. The associated press news is received in substance at the Reporter office at 4 p. m. each day, giving the happenings during the day, over the wires. These are immediately posted on a bulletin board outside of the post-office where all can read them. The early morning mails bring us the happenings of the previous evening and night from the army and navy in any part of the globe.

#### Marriage Licenses.

The following marriage licenses were issued during the past week: John T. Welsh, of Bellefonte, and Rebecca McCloskey, of Romolo. Mike Basista and Susanna Shak, of Phillipsburg. Linn S. Batorf, of Bellefonte, and Ethel Dale, of Lemont. Charles L. Peters and Ella H. Smith, of Milesburg. Geo. M. Harkless and Cora Fink, of Phillipsburg.

#### To Mark the Old Fort Site.

The Centre county chapter of the daughters of the American Revolution, will erect a marker on the site of Potter's Fort, near Old Fort, at this place, erected as a defense against Indians in 1777. The marker will be of gray marble two feet square and four feet high. It will be placed in position about the middle of May with appropriate ceremonies.

#### Enthusiasm at Bellefonte.

Yesterday afternoon Co. B, N. G. P., of Bellefonte was ordered to proceed to Mt. Gretna. All the business houses in the town were closed, and fully five thousand people were out to give the boys a send-off. Many of them will go to Cuba. Speeches were delivered in front of the court house, and the buildings were decorated with American and Cuban flags.

#### Swung to the Breeze.

Old Glory was swung across the diamond Saturday when dispatches announced that hostilities had actually opened with Spain. The high wind and rain Saturday and Sunday ripped the large flag, and as quickly as a new one can be ordered it will be suspended to remain until all the Dons have been driven off Cuba. A subscription circulated among the citizens for a new flag received liberal support.

Children like it, it saves their lives. We mean One Minute Cough Cure, the infallible remedy for coughs, colds, croup, bronchitis, grippe, and all throat and lung troubles; for sale by Smith & Crawford.

## WASHINGTON LETTER.

### WAR SPIRIT HIGH AT THE NATION'S CAPITOL.

The Prevailing Sentiment is to Give the Spaniards a Thorough Licking Now that War is on.

WASHINGTON, April 25.—One country, one flag, and one object—the licking of Spain. That is the all-prevailing sentiment in Washington since the war actually begun. Now that Mr. McKinley has shaken off the Hanna peace-at-any-price crowd and their benumbing influence, he has become thoroughly alive to the necessities of the situation. This has been particularly noticeable during the past week. He started on the right track when he asked Congress for authority to use the army and navy to drive Spain out of Cuba; he took the proper step when he sent that ultimatum to Spain; again when he recognized the dismissal of our minister by Spain as an act of war; again when he issued orders for our fleet to blockade Cuba, and yet again when he issued his proclamation calling for 125,000 men to serve two years unless sooner discharged. Congress is right behind every one of these moves and the people are right behind Congress. The enthusiasm is unprejudiced, and every Spanish flag captured by our warships add to it. The only regret that is heard is that all who desire to participate in avenging the Maine cannot do so, as each state will insist on furnishing its full quota of the troops called for. The National Guard of the District of Columbia is already on duty in a camp of instruction, and although only about one-third can hope to go every man of them is anxious to start for Cuba.

The law authorizing the volunteer army which was enacted by Congress last week, provides for four Maj. Generals, and the impression is general in Washington that Fitz. Lee, and Joe Wheeler, of Ala., will be tendered commissions of that rank. "Teddy" Roosevelt, the scrappy Assistant Secretary of the navy, will resign that position in order to serve on Fitz. Lee's staff in Cuba.

When once our army gets in Cuba it will make short work of whipping the Spaniards, but several weeks must elapse before that army can be gathered on the southern coast, preparatory to embarkation for Cuba. Until then we shall have to content ourselves with the knowledge that our warships will give a good account of themselves in any engagements they will have either with the Spanish forts in Cuba or with the Spanish warships; and we may as well also prepare ourselves to hear of the occasional capture of an American merchant ship on the other side of the Atlantic by the Spanish. We can hope that the boastful Spanish navy will come over and fight our ships, but there are no indications now in sight that it will do so. It looks as though we will have to go after them when we have captured Cuba. But Cuba comes first.

The bonds authorized by the war revenue bill reported to the House from the Ways and Means committee are coin bonds—the gold idea had to be abandoned by the few who entertained it—bearing 3 per cent. interest. \$500,000,000 is the amount, to run from ten to twenty years at the pleasure of the government. The issue of \$100,000,000 in 3 per cent. treasury certificates of indebtedness is also authorized. The bill makes increases in the international revenue tax on beer and manufactured tobacco, and provides for new taxation, mostly by stamps, similar to the system in vogue just after the war, that will it is estimated add \$100,000,000 a year to the government's revenues.

There is very little doubt that the witty speech of Private John Allen, of Miss., shamed enough Republican members of the House to save the seat of Representative Carmack, of Tenn., which was contested by Josiah Patterson, who ran against him as a gold Democrat and was supported by Republicans. Six Republicans voted for Carmack and a number did not vote at all. It had been understood that the solid Republican vote had been pledged to Patterson by Gen. Grosvenor and other leaders of the party, but after John Allen had shown up in his own inimitable manner the zigzag financial career of Josiah Patterson, emphasizing his points by a string of his best stories, the vote was taken and Josiah was defeated by a vote of 139 to 120.

A long story might be told about the lightning cabinet change, in which editor Charles Emory Smith succeeded mercantile James A. Gary as Postmaster General, but if so old an enemy of Smith as Senator Quay was willing to keep quiet and even move that Smith's nomination be confirmed by the Senate, surely others can do so, at least until after the war is over. Just now nothing is wanted that will not add to the strength of the govern-

ment; the first and greatest demand is that no time be lost in fighting the war to a victorious end.

Another change in the Cabinet is pending. John Sherman has got to go. He would have gone before now, had it not been for the desire of Mr. McKinley to put Mr. Day in his place. There is a kick against this from numerous influential Republicans who think the position several times too large for Mr. Day. As soon as the matter can be amicably arranged Mr. Sherman will resign, on the plea that the work of the Secretary of State during war times is too hard for his age. A Senate committee left Washington Saturday night in charge of the remains of the late Senator Willhall, of Miss., which will be interred at his former home, Holly Springs.

#### WARM WAVE IN MAY.

It Will Cross the Country During the First Week.

My last bulletin gave forecasts of the storm wave to cross the continent from April 28 to May 2, and the next will reach the Pacific coast about May 3, cross the west of Rockies country by close of 4th, great central valleys 5th to 7th, eastern states 9th.

Warm wave will cross the west of Rockies countries about May 3, great central valleys 5th, eastern states 7th.

Cool wave will cross the west of Rockies countries about May 6, great central valleys 8th, eastern states 10th.

Temperature of the week ending May 7 will average above normal east of the Rockies and below west. Rainfall will be about average in the country near a line running from Washington to Mobile, below in all other sections east of the Rockies and above in the western mountain countries.

In large portions of the great central valleys a serious drouth will seem to be probable about the time the May 7 bulletin is published. Except near the line from Washington to Mobile the lack of rainfall will begin to create alarm.

At the same time, portions of the Alleghenies covered by the line mentioned and the high lands between the Missouri river and the Pacific ocean will have an abundance of rain. The temperature forecast test for Chicago continues to be a success for the forecasts. No serious break has occurred since the first of January.

Next week's bulletin will contain a general forecast for May, including the threatened drouth.

#### Eggs That Don't Hatch.

There is one main cause for eggs not hatching—all others being secondary—and it is expressed by a contributor to the English Fanciers' Gazette, as follows: "I have been experimenting lately on the eggs from certain hens, to find out if there is any great difference in their hatching, their vitality, etc., and have been greatly interested in the discoveries. The eggs from the abnormally fat hens seldom hatch. The chicken usually dies on or about the twelfth day of incubation. When an egg hatches a day or two in advance of time, one usually concludes that it was quite fresh when put in, but I now find that it is the eggs from the active and most healthy hens that break the shell first. Five eggs from a little game hen, which were all over five days old, were the first to hatch. Invariably the egg from the sleepy, lazy hen hatches late. Out of the twenty-seven hens whose eggs I experimented with, I found two quite sterile. They both lay fine, large eggs of good shape and shell, but though I must have tried a dozen of their eggs not one has even had a sign of a chicken. I have even mated them with different roosters, but without avail, and strange to say they are the worst tempered hens in the yard, always quarreling and beating the others.

#### Sudden Death of a Child.

Sunday afternoon about five o'clock a strange and rather peculiar accident took place at the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lutz, who reside near Zion. Charles, their three-year-old child, was playing with the cat in the kitchen when, in its playful mood, it jumped out of the child's arms and ran out of the door. The little fellow, in running after the cat, tripped and fell, striking his head against the door. He began to cry, when his father picked him up and soothingly started out into the garden thinking that the child would soon become pacified, but instead of this he became very sick and was again taken to the house, where he was taken with spasms. Dr. P. S. Fisher, of Zion, was quickly summoned, who tried in every way possible to save the child but it died a couple of hours after the doctor had gotten there. The cause of his death was compression of the brain.

Thirty-five years make a generation. That is how long Adolph Fisher, of Zanesville, O., suffered from piles. He was cured by using three boxes of De Witt's Witch Hazel Salve; for sale by Smith & Crawford.

#### LOCAL ITEMS.

Callings of More than Ordinary Interest from Everywhere.

When the Spanish vessels gather Like the pirate fleets of yore, When they seek to sweep the ocean All along the Cuban shore; When they strip themselves for action And the eyes of nations stare, You can bet the Flying Squadron And its fighters Will Be There.

When the woe of war's upon us, When destroyers plough the sea, When Morro Castle crumbles And the Cuban flag is free; When the flash and flame of battle Tints the balmy southern air, You can bet the Flying Squadron And its fighters Will Be There.

#### So far no one has been killed in this war.

J. M. Green, Milesburg, was granted a pension, \$6.

John Nearhoff, Port Matilda, was granted a pension, \$8.

J. Fearon Mann, of Bellefonte, has moved to Lewistown.

It's about time that the post-office at Tusseyville be re-established.

The weather for over a week has had a good many sprinkles in it.

Fruit and grain crops in Centre and adjoining counties are promising.

The fruit trees are fast getting into blossom adding beauty to the landscape.

Centre Hall, like all other up-to-date towns has the patriotic war-spirit running high.

The Spaniards must admit us yankees to be smart for capturing seven prizes to their six.

We are informed by our physicians that there is not much sickness at this time in the valley.

Wheat has jumped over the dollar mark; glad we are for the farmer who has wheat to sell yet.

Col. Fred Reynolds is already preparing to erect a new mill on the site of the one burnt last week.

With all the Cuban harbors closed by our fleet, the Spaniards down there will soon be getting mighty hungry.

A Grand Opportunity.—See adv. of A. H. Herendeen & Co., Geneva, N. Y. Steady employment, good pay.

All Centre county is aflame with a spirit of patriotism even down to the little tots. Let the Dons beware.

Frank Watson, a convict in the Ohio state prison, has been notified that by the death of a relative in Tyrone he has inherited \$19,000.

Rev. Rearick's appointments for Sunday, April 24: At Centre Hall, 10 a. m.; at St. Johns, 2 p. m.; at Georges Valley, 7 p. m.

The acreage of potatoes to be planted this year will exceed that of any former year. Last year's high price of the tubers was quite alluring.

The Havanese who 'fleckled over the blowing up of the Maine, now feel down in the mouth—they find themselves bottled up by our fleet.

About 35 years ago the mill at Bellefonte, now Reynolds', was totally destroyed by fire—last Thursday being the second time fire wiped it out.

An elderly dame remarked: Wee kumpt's dos se now greek starte wella grot wons gartle un grumbeere plonsa do is? 'Sis ken ferstond in so eppes.

Recent deaths in Millin county: In Lewistown, Frank, son of Wm. Aurand, in his 3rd year. In Newton Hamilton, Frank Fields, aged 39 yrs.

Robert Tate, of Nittany Hall, died on 20, aged 65 years, 11 months and 23 days. He was a highly respected citizen and leaves a wife and several children.

Huyett is busy preparing for his new lumber operations in the Seven mountains, which are to be on a large scale. He is a graduate in that business.

Druggist Murray has removed the large wooden awning in front of his store which will afford more light to the interior and less shelter for night assembly of boys.

There certainly must be some conscientious people in Altoona. Only last week one of her citizens returned his pension certificate to the department, alleging he had regained his health.

This war will have an educational effect upon the haughty Spaniards who knew so little about Uncle Sam that they declared Americans were "nobodies." The Don's will hereafter know that Spain is nowhere compared with the United States.

Young America has been to the front the last week in the town, and with flags and drums, have shown their patriotism. The large cannon in Grange Park was allowed to speak for the first time since it was received and it was a heavy growl that echoed from mountain to mountain that the big belched gun forth.