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The Centre Democrat.

During the year, 1897, there were printed 102,617 complete copies of THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT, or 262 each week, allowing for misprints, our actual average circulation was over 2,000 COPIES PER WEEK. Intelligent advertisers will appreciate this statement.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEFONTE, PA., THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1898.

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MESSAGE DELAYED AT LEE'S DESIRE

All the Americans Could not
Leave Cuba in Time

THEIR LIVES ARE IN DANGER

Prominent Congressman, When Consulted,
Agreed That a Postponement of the Mes-
sage Until Monday Was Advisable on the
Pre-Eminent Ground of Humanity.

Wednesday was the time fixed for President McKinley to definitely state to Congress his Cuban policy. Unless he did this they threatened to break away from him and force an issue themselves. The message was not delivered. Consul Lee's request for postponement was the cause. The following is a brief summary of the latest war news from Thursday morning's dailies. Other news of the past week will be found on page 2 of this issue.

The President's message is postponed. It was all ready to go in Wednesday. Congress and the country waited for it.

Just at 12 o'clock, Wednesday came the little, but portentous message of General Lee, which for the time outweighed the great and far-reaching message of the President. Delay until Monday, said the Consul General, and we can take care of all the Americans; act before then and there will be danger.

For the first time since this controversy began the President has both parties with him. There is no difference of opinion as to the wisdom in delaying the message.

The President is still for peace. He believes that could be granted a little more time he could arrange matters with Spain on a peace basis, but Congress has been chafing at his delay and demands action, and he will meet that demand rather than permit Congress to run away with the situation.

There is no doubt whatever that President McKinley would welcome any peaceful solution on the part of Spain, and there is still a lively hope at the White House that something will yet occur to prevent hostilities. But if anything does occur it must have its origin in Spain.

It is said the Administration still hopes that Spain will grant complete liberty to Cuba, but does not expect it, and is consequently preparing for a war that is likely to involve Porto Rico and the Canary Islands as well as Cuba.

Consul General Lee left Havana to return home with many Americans. Great crowds rushed to the National Capitol to hear the President's message and were consequently disappointed.

Spain's torpedo flotilla is still at Cape Verde Islands.

There is new proof of England's solid friendship for the United States in the present crisis.

The Spanish Cabinet is on the brink of an eruption.

Owing to the grave situation the stock markets will not close to-morrow or Saturday.

The Cuban Junta made a remarkable statement to the effect that if the insurgents are not recognized as the dominant Government they will attack United States troops if sent to Cuba.

Minister Woodford's family and the American Legation left Madrid.

Efforts are making by this Government to buy four torpedo boats of China.

LATE NOTES.

Austria's Emperor has urged Spain to make all concessions.

Captain Sigbee who commanded the Maine when she was blown up, declared before a Congressional committee that it was caused by the Spanish.

England refused to join other European nations in a scheme of mediation.

The Treasury of the United States was never in a better condition for war than it is now.

Consul General Lee says it will not be possible for all the Cuban Consuls to leave the island for a week or more.

Four new steamers were purchased Tuesday.

Minister Bernabe, of Spain, gave out a formal interview declaring for peace and deprecating war.

The cry in the Senate is to drive the Spanish from the Western Hemisphere. Everything at Key West is ready for immediate action.

PREPARING FOR SEA.

Hong Kong, April 6.—The United States fleet is preparing for sea.

In the event of war Commodore Dewey's ships would make an immediate attack upon the Philippine Islands.

LEE LEAVES CUBA.

Washington, April 6.—Judge Day says the President's message will be sent to Congress about two o'clock this afternoon. By that time all Americans, including General Lee, will be out of Cuba.

MORE TORPEDO BOATS.

London, April 6.—A Rome special says the contracts were signed to-day for the sale of three torpedo boats to the United States. Also for the sale of the armored cruiser Guiseppe Garibaldi to Spain.

THE CINCINNATI AGROUND.

Key West, April 6.—The Cincinnati is aground in the harbor.

A HOWARD LADY

Found Hanging From a Beam in the Kitchen Last Friday.

The citizens of Howard had an attempt at suicide sensation last Friday. Mrs. Mary Miller, a widow, who resides with Mrs. Conard Long. Mrs. Miller has been despondent for some time and Friday morning was found by Mrs. Long hanging from a beam in the kitchen. Mrs. Long shrieked for help, and a man named Rishel responded. Mrs. Long and Mr. Rishel then severed the rope, lowered the body and summoned physicians. After several hours of hard work Mrs. Miller was restored to consciousness. She is 65 years old.

Telephone Extension.

The Centre Hall Reporter says: Last Saturday 26th, the Bell Telephone Company with a gang of men, began operations on their new lines in Pennsylvania. The entire system in the valley will be overhauled and many improvements will be added.

An exchange will be placed in Centre Hall and at Millheim. The subscribers in Centre Hall, Spring Mills and Potters Mills, will be in this district. Two metallic circuit trunk lines will be run to Bellefonte, and through the exchange here. The management claim they will be able to give a better service than before. Millheim will have an exchange. To the subscribers in that district a toll charge will be made for Centre Hall and Bellefonte service.

Shot in the Leg.

On Monday Wm. Hockenberry a son of Mr. and Mrs. Hockenberry, of Nigh bank, met with a painful accident. The boy is about thirteen years old and in some way got hold of a .35 calibre revolver and was playing with the weapon which was loaded with cartridges. While in the act of loading and unloading there was a discharge. The lad was sitting down and the ball entered his right leg above the knee and traveled down about a foot where it lodged under the skin. Dr. Fisher was called and extracted the ball.

Death of Mary Klepper.

Mrs. Mary Klepper, aged 84 years, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. John Carson, at Pleasant Gap, on Wednesday night 30th. Her death was the result of old age. She came over from her home in Pennsylvania last spring to visit her daughter and has been at Pleasant Gap ever since. Funeral was held at Pleasant Gap, Saturday morning. Interment at Snyderstown.

Joined the Navy.

Harry McCaleb, son of the well known blind man, Joseph McCaleb, of Nittany, hearing that men were wanted in the navy department at Philadelphia, went to that city, made application and was the only one accepted out of 350 applicants. He was assigned to the Columbia but has since been transferred to another ship.

A Strange Pedigree.

Murray Courtwright had a jackass registered at the prothonotary's office in Hollidaysburg recently. In the certificate of registration appeared the following, written in the pedigree space: "Pedigree not certainly known. Believed to be a lineal descendent of the celebrated pair of asses said to have been in Noah's ark and a distant relative of Balaam's ass."

Putting in the Lamp Posts.

The work of putting in the lamp posts at Mill Hall, ordered by the council of that place some time ago, is still going on. Main street has been supplied, and the men are now working up towards Johnson's and on the street along the creek. Thirty-four posts will be put up and gasoline will be burned.

Applying For a Charter.

Application will be made to the Governor on Friday by Central Commercial Telephone Company. This is the company that proposes to erect telephone lines in Clinton, Centre, Clearfield, Huntingdon, Lycoming and Montour counties to connect all the principal towns and valleys.

Died at Phillipsburg.

Wm. A. Faulkner, father of ex-judge C. A. Faulkner, died Sunday evening at 6:30 at the residence of his son at Phillipsburg. He was 87 years old and death resulted from neuralgia of the heart.

NAVAL FORCES COMPARED

Spains Formidable Navy Would be
Crushed.

MODERN GUNS AND ARMOR

Our Heavy Battle Ships Would do Deadly
Work to Spain's Cruisers—Something
About Torpedo Boats—Our Navy has
Better Fighters—An Interesting Compar-
ison from the Scientific American.

While we are hopeful that the existing difficulties with Spain may even yet prove to be capable of adjustment by peaceful methods, it is likely that if hostilities come at all they will come quickly. It is equally certain that the issues of war would be determined upon the sea, and a brief comparison of the fighting strength of the two navies will be just now of special interest.

Could we defeat Spain upon the high seas? It is safe to say that there is not a citizen of this country that doubts for a moment that we could. To the lay mind the task of annihilating the Spanish navy appears not only certain, but easy; to the professional mind, as represented by the men who design and fight our ships, the task appears equally certain, but by no means so easy of accomplishment.

It is better to over rather than underestimate an opponent, and it is best of all to rate him at his true value; hence we may as well admit at the outset that Spain would go into the war, as far as her ships are concerned, with a homogeneous, compact and very formidable fleet—one which, if properly handled and bravely fought, would be a by no means unworthy opponent for the powerful ships of the United States navy. Each fleet would be strong where the other is weak, and taking the two fleets as they stand—swift, heavily armored cruisers and deadly destroyers against mighty battleships and more lightly armored cruisers—the issue, judged independently of "the men behind the guns," would be by no means so certain as is popularly supposed. The man behind the gun, however, would be the controlling factor, and it is the supreme confidence of the American public in the pluck and discipline of the crews and the skill and daring of our naval officers which renders it so confident of final victory.

If war should come, it would be the object of Spain to obtain a decisive naval victory at the very outset. Cuba being the objective point of both combatants, the war would probably be carried on in Cuban waters. The almost insuperable difficulties of coal supply would prevent any delay in risky attempts upon our now well defended sea ports. The same difficulty would render it to Spain's advantage to wage an aggressive warfare and deal as early as possible an effective blow in a general engagement. The approach of the powerful battleship "Oregon," from the Pacific, would prompt such a policy. It is more than likely that a numerous squadron, comprising all the powerful armored fighting ships of the Spanish navy and their recently completed torpedo-boat destroyers, would be dispatched to give battle to our combined fleets in the neighborhood of Cuba.

We will suppose that only the armored ships would be placed in the first line of battle, and for the purpose of comparison, we will suppose that all the modern armored ships of Spain would be sent over in the effort to win a decisive battle.

The Spanish line could boast of only one first-class battleship, the "Pelayo." She is a 9,900-ton ship, of 16 knots speed, carrying two 12½ and two 11-inch guns in 11-inch steel barbettes, placed high above the water line. She has a 17.7-inch steel belt along the whole water line, and her secondary battery contains nine 5½-inch rapid-fire guns. She is a good ship, but possesses the fatal defect of having no armor protection between the barbettes and the belt. On this account, high explosive shells bursting beneath the barbettes might easily put them out of action. To the "Pelayo" we could oppose the "Iowa," of 11,410 tons, carrying four 12-inch guns, eight 8-inch guns, and a secondary battery of four 6-inch guns. She is protected by a 14-inch belt, and the main battery is protected from the turret roof down to the belt with 15 inches of steel. She is thus larger and more heavily armored than the "Pelayo," and, saving the chances of a modern sea fight, should easily silence or sink the Spaniard.

With the exception of its one first-class battleship, the Spanish line of battle would consist of a magnificent fleet of eight swift, heavily armed and heavily armored cruisers, similar in size, speed and power, and admirably adapted to act together in a concerted fleet action. There is no nation in the world that possesses such a fleet, not even England, and the fact that the ships are all built to carry the large normal coal supply of 1,200 tons would seem to indicate that

they were built for just such an emergency as now confronts them.

The most important and largest of these ships is the "Carlos V.," of 9,235 tons and 20 knots speed. Her curved deck plating is 6½ inches thick, and her secondary battery is protected by a continuous belt of two inches of steel. She carries two 11-inch guns disposed in two barbettes of 10-inch steel, and a secondary battery of eight 5½-inch and four 3.9-inch rapid-fire guns. Against her we could oppose the "Brooklyn," which closely resembles her in many points. She is of 9,250 tons displacement, 21.9 knots speed and is protected by a steel deck 6 inches thick on the slopes, to which is added a belt of 3-inch steel extending in the wake of the engine rooms and boilers. She carries an exceptionally heavy battery of eight 8-inch guns, protected by 5½ and 8 inches of steel, and a secondary battery of twelve 5-inch rapid-fire guns. Unless a lucky shell from the great 11-inch guns of the "Carlos V." should find its way into her engine or boiler room, she would prove more than a match for the Spaniard.

Following the "Carlos V." in importance is the "Cristobal Colon," built in Italy, whose sister ship, the "Vares," the Spaniards were very anxious to purchase from Italy. This is a most interesting ship, and it is a question whether, in spite of her smaller size—6,840 tons—she is not more formidable than the "Carlos V." The remarkable feature in this ship is the extensive armor protection, which is so complete as to entitle her to be called a battleship rather than a cruiser. A 6-inch steel belt encircles the whole waterline. Above this is a redoubt of continuous 6-inch steel which completely protects a battery of ten 6-inch rapid-fire guns, and above this is another battery of six 4.7-inch rapid-fire guns. The main battery consists of two 10-inch armor-piercing guns in 6-inch barbettes. The speed is the same as that of the other cruisers—20 knots. Against this boat we could oppose the "New York," a smaller edition of the "Brooklyn." She is 8,300 tons displacement, 21 knots speed, and is protected by a 4-inch belt and a curved deck 6 inches on the slopes. The armament consists of six 8-inch guns and twelve 4-inch rapid-fire guns, the gun positions being protected with casemates and turrets of from 7 to 10 inches of steel. The superior protection and heavier secondary battery of the "Cristobal Colon" should render her a fair match for the "New York."

Following these two ships in importance is a group of six sister ships, two of which are already very familiar to the people of New York. They are the "Almirante Oquendo," the "Cardinal Cisneros," the "Cataluna," the "Princesa de Asturias," the "Infanta Maria Teresa" and the "Vizcaya." The "Maria Teresa" represented Spain at the Grant Memorial services last year and lay for some time off Riverside Drive in the Hudson River, and the "Vizcaya" visited this port immediately after the Maine disaster.

Each of these six ships is of 7,000 tons displacement and 20 knots speed. They are provided with a belt of 12-inch steel, at the top of which is a 3 inch protective deck. At each end of this belt an armored tube rises to connect with a barbette of 10½-inch steel, and in each barbette is an 11 inch armor-piercing gun. Between these guns is a battery of 5.5-inch quick-firing guns.

Against these speedy ships we could oppose two powerful first-class battleships, the "Indiana" and "Massachusetts," the armored cruiser "Texas" and four powerful monitors, the "Puritan," "Terror," "Amphitrite" and "Miantonomoh." In point of guns and armor the advantage would be vastly in favor of the battleships and monitors, though this would be offset by the speed, handiness and ability to use the ram of the Spanish cruisers. In an artillery duel there could be little doubt of the issue. In heavy guns the seven American ships have eight 13-inch, ten 12-inch, twelve 10-inch and sixteen 9-inch, a total of 46 armor-piercing guns against a total of twelve 11-inch guns on the six Spanish ships. This superiority however would be greatly offset by the murderous discharge of the secondary rapid-fire batteries of the Spaniards, which would comprise sixty 5½-inch guns, against which we could only make reply with fourteen 6-inch and eight 4-inch guns. The result of such a duel would be that the unarmored ends and the central secondary batteries of the "Indiana," "Massachusetts" and "Texas" would be blown away, while the armor belts of the Spanish ships would be pierced and the ships either sunk or disabled.

Thus far, however, we have taken no note of two other novel and hitherto untried elements, which would at least figure prominently in such a battle, if they did not prove to be its deciding factor. We refer to the armored ram "Katahdin," of the American fleet, and the deadly torpedo boat destroyers of the

WAR WITH SPAIN WOULD BE SHORT

Reasons Why American Ships
Would Succeed.

BRAINS, SKILL AND INGENUITY

Is What Counts in Naval Warfare—What the
"World" thinks of the Situation—A
Few Points About our Navy—Interesting
Information.

Putting aside all unnecessary excitement and all exaggeration, the prospect of a war with Spain is not alarming. If it comes it will not be much of a war.

1. There will be no fighting on land unless it be in Cuba for a few days. Spain will not think of invading the United States, and the United States will have no occasion to invade Spain.

A nation which has been unable to put down 30,000 half-armed and half-fed insurgents in Cuba after three years of persistent effort is not likely, with all its foolish arrogance, to set foot on the soil of this country.

It is good to see the fires of patriotism kindling and ready to blaze all over the Union, but there is really no probability of any call for troops beyond the militia of the seaboard states as precautionary measure.

2. The war, if it comes, will be very brief and almost entirely a naval combat. For a naval contest with Spain this country is so well equipped as to leave no ground for serious apprehension. In sea fights it is not the bulk of the ships or the size of the guns so much as the brains, the skill, the ingenuity and daring of the men who command and handle them, that count.

That the American Navy is much superior to that of Spain in all these respects there is no question. It will surprise unprejudiced naval experts if the superior fighting capacity of the American ships does not make a quick end to the war, if it shall come to that.

3. A conflict of the sort indicated would be instructive. It would test the value of the new naval monsters that have swallowed up hundreds of millions of dollars in construction but have yet had no real demonstration of their worth.

It is just as well that Spain should be the target for this test. She will have little use for a navy hereafter if she provokes a contest with this country now. And it is perhaps well that America, which revolutionized naval warfare by constructing the first ironclads and monitors, should now demonstrate the value of the floating forts and other monstrosities that have been developed from the rude beginnings of our last war.

In the ordinary use of the term, a conflict with Spain 3,400 miles distant from her base of supplies, relatively small, almost bankrupt and wholly without allies, cannot be much of a war; but in its encounters upon the sea it would be highly interesting and instructive.—World.

POINTERS ABOUT OUR NAVY.

The United States is the fifth naval power in the world. The navies of Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy rank ahead in the order named. Germany and the United States are about tied.

The powder used is brown and is the size of a caramel. A charge for the biggest guns weighs 500 pounds and is hoisted to the breech by a derrick, the powder being sewed up in burlap bags.

Our battleships have a speed of from 15 to 17 knots an hour. Cruisers make 19 to 24 knots, while the monitors can travel only 5 to 7 knots.

The biggest guns in the navy are 49 feet long, big enough for a man to crawl into; 4 feet in diameter at the largest part and weigh 135,500 pounds or thereabouts.

Barnacles form on the hull of a ship, impeding its speed. A six months' cruise will decrease the speed of a ship 15 per cent and it must go into dry dock.

Sixty-one merchant vessels belong to the auxiliary navy. These ships are subsidized and by contract must be given to the United States on demand.

Some of the guns in the navy can fire a shot 12 miles, farther than a man can see, for the guns are aimed and sighted by machinery.

In battle the woodwork and all articles of wood are either stowed below or thrown overboard lest the men be injured by splinters.

The fastest vessels in the navy are the torpedo boats Porter and Dupont, each of which can travel 27.5 knots an hour. Battleships cost from \$2,500,000 to \$3,750,000, and cruisers from \$600,000 to \$3,000,000. A good torpedo boat costs over \$100,000.

Battleships are for heavy work; cruisers are commerce destroyers; monitors are useful only for coast defence. The Indiana could lie outside Sandy

Hook and throw 1200-pound shots into New York at the rate of four a minute.

All of the cruisers are named in honor of cities, and the battleships, except the Kearsarge, in honor of States.

Only 60 per cent. of the enlisted men are Americans, and a similar percentage yet are native born.

A big battleship has on board an electric plant capable of lighting a town of 5000 inhabitants.

Great Britain has 294 torpedoes and torpedo-boat destroyers. Uncle Sam has only eight.

Battleships are covered with armor of nickel steel from 5 to 7 inches thick.

A submarine torpedo-boat to be known as the Plunger is now under construction.

Behind the heavy armor there is a padding of either corn pith or cocoa husks.

It costs \$500 every time one of the big guns on board a ship is fired.

Sailors are paid from \$9.50 to \$12.50 a month on board.

An act of Congress in 1872 abolished flogging in the navy.

The American navy has practically all been built since 1883.

The oldest iron vessel is the Michigan, built in 1844.

Five battleships are now under construction.

Married.

A very pleasant social event transpired at the residence of Mrs. A. E. Leathers, of Mt. Eagle, Wednesday afternoon, March 30th. The occasion was the marriage of Mrs. Leathers' daughter Olive E. to Howard J. Butter, of Philadelphia. Invitations were sent only to the immediate relatives of the bride and groom and they made a large and pleasant company. Miss Butter, of Philadelphia, a sister of the groom, was bridesmaid and Mr. Kellar, of Philadelphia, was groomsmen. Miss Florence Leathers a sister of the bride played the wedding march which was begun promptly at two o'clock.

The bride and groom preceded by the bridesmaid and groomsmen marched into the room taking their place before the officiating minister Rev. E. E. Masley, pastor of the Church of Christ, at Howard, who with a neat and impressive service pronounced them to be husband and wife. After congratulations had been offered the company adjourned to the dining room where an elegant and bountiful lunch was served.

The bride was handsomely attired in a cream silk, while the bridesmaid wore a light blue satin dress. The young couple were the recipients of many useful and beautiful presents. They took the 4.20 P. M. train intending to take a trip to Philadelphia where they will reside. The best wishes of a host of friends go with them. X

Volunteers are Plenty.

Lewistown is to have a volunteer company for service in case of war with Spain. H. C. Kieferle, of that town, is recruiting able bodied men who mean business in case there is need for the organization. As soon as the list contains enough names drilling will begin at the armory of Company G. of the Fifth Regiment at Lewistown.

At Lock Haven a great many have signified their willingness to offer their services in case of war, and so recorded their names at Holmes' store, Bellefonte avenue. Between fifty and fifty-five names had been handed in up to noon Saturday.

Down at Loganton a number of volunteers have signified their intention of going to the front in case of hostilities.

Here in Bellefonte no expression of volunteers have been publicly made. When hostilities commence this community will be prepared to send out about sixty as well equipped members in Co. B. as can be found in the N. G. P. Capt. Short says they are ready to move on short notice and will have a full company. There will be little trouble to secure volunteers if trouble with Spain should commence.

Postoffice Discontinued.

The post-master-general has ordered the discontinuance of the postoffice at Tusseyville, April 1, and that its belongings be transferred to Potters Mills postoffice.

The reasons for this order are that the office, it was claimed, did not compensate the postmaster for the attention it required and an additional allowance was asked for, which the department refused, although the additional pay had been given heretofore. Postmaster Swartz stated the trouble but the extra pay was refused and an order to abolish the office was issued as there was no applicant for the place. Mr. Swartz will agree to serve on for the sake of postal facility for that vicinity, hence we think the order to quit will be rescinded, which it should be.

The CENTRE DEMOCRAT and Pittsburg W. Post for \$1.50 a year.