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# The Centre Democrat.

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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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VOL. 20, NO. 17.

## War Clouds Have Broken.

### Hostilities at Last Between this Country and Spain.

### MANY SPANISH VESSELS SEIZED.

#### The Coast of Cuba has Been Blockaded by the American Fleet—Rich Prizes Taken—Brave Deed of the Mangrove—The Asiatic Squadron has Moved on the Philippine Islands—Great Naval Battle Expected Soon—Call for Arms.

Last Thursday, when this paper went to press, the crisis between this country and Spain was almost at hand. The ultimatum was sent, and the nation anxiously awaited the result—peace, by Spain leaving Cuba; or war, in our determination to drive Spanish armies from Cuban soil.

Since then great events have transpired. Hostilities between the two countries has commenced—the dogs of war are loosed. The whole nation has been aroused to a patriotic fervor, to avenge the cowardly destruction of the Maine and the liberation of the Cubans from centuries of cruel, barbarous oppression.

War has been formally declared. The American fleet moved from Key West at last and has blockaded the island of Cuba. By this time, at least, a dozen Spanish vessels have been captured and the American sailors have won honors by deeds of daring.

No attack has been made on Havana. Preparations are being made to furnish the insurgents on the island with arms and ammunition. A large force of our regular army will soon be landed on that island and an active campaign will soon be inaugurated in co-operation with General Gomez, the Cuban leader.

The Asiatic squadron, for some time harbored at Hong Kong, has moved on the Philippine Islands. These are Spanish possessions in the Pacific ocean, about two hundred miles southeast of China. A large Spanish fleet is located there, but not considered formidable. An encounter is looked for between these two fleets at once, and will be the first naval battle. The result will be of great importance. The natives on the Philippine islands are again in revolt and may assist us in capturing these islands.

The large Spanish fleet of armored vessels is still at the Cape Verde Islands, off the western coast of Africa and it is not known what direction they may take and are several thousand miles from Cuba and may never come there for want of a supply of coal. The Key West squadron is anxious to bombard Havana and attack Porto Rico and engage the Spanish fleet there.

There is no probability of intervention of foreign powers. They will be neutral, unless the war should be prolonged and distress the commercial interests of other countries.

The President's call to arms has aroused the patriotic fervor of the American people. Instead of an army of 100,000, a million volunteers are tendering their services to the government—and from every part of the country too.

All the seacoast towns have been amply fortified and the harbors underlaid with torpedoes and mines, so that little fear is felt from an attack of the Spanish war vessels.

This is the situation briefly summed up. To obtain a brief summary of the news of the past week read the article on page 3, fourth column, headed "War News of the week." Other interesting events will also be found on pages 2 and 3.

#### LATE NEWS.

In the following are given the events of the past twenty-four hours, since Wednesday morning:

#### Condensed Telegrams.

In addition to the monitor Terror's capture of the Spanish steamer Bolivar, with a cargo of bananas and \$60,000 in silver on board, one of Admiral Sampson's blockading monitors yesterday ran into Key West harbor the Norwegian steamship Uto, with coal, from Philadelphia for Cardenas, Cuba. The cargo is held to be contraband of war. Several exciting incidents are reported, in which the blockaders off Matanzas figured. The capture or execution of the American correspondent, Holmes, at or near Havana, is indicated. United States Commissioners have landed on the island to confer and arrange for co-operation with Gomez. Fires are raging along the Cuban coast. The United States battleship Oregon is reported to be speeding toward Key West from the vicinity of Montevideo.

It is believed by those best informed that the ocean liner Paris is safe.

It is reported that Spanish war vessels have been seen at different points along the line followed by ocean steamers.

News of the bombardment of American coast cities by a Spanish fleet is said to be expected in Madrid.

Governor Hastings is confident that as a result of the earnest appeal made by himself and others, the entire Pennsylvania National Guard will be mustered in as volunteers.

#### To Attack Manila Today.

Hong Kong, April 27.—Commodore Dewey, of the Asiatic squadron, has been ordered to take the Philippines today.

#### To Attack Dewey.

Madrid, April 27.—It was announced today that the Spanish squadron has left Manila to give battle to Commodore Dewey's fleet, which has left Hong Kong. The utmost enthusiasm prevailed among the seamen and officers on the American fleet over the prospect of fighting the first naval battle of the war.

Admiral Dewey says that he will take Manila in thirty-eight minutes.

#### Another Spanish Ship.

Key West, April 27.—The monitor Terror has captured the Spanish ship Bolivar, and brought her in this morning.

#### The Shenandoah Safe.

Cork, April 27.—The British ship Killarney arrived at Bristol today. She

spoke the Shenandoah, which had been reported captured by the Spaniards.

#### Havana Panic Stricken.

Key West, April 27.—A British steamer from Havana has arrived here under a white flag with thirty refugees from Cuba. It reports the city of Havana panic stricken.

#### Spain Gets a Prize.

Madrid, April 27.—Manila advices say the Spaniards have captured the American bark Saranac, laden with coal.

#### A Landing at Cardenas.

Key West, April 27.—The fleet has effected a landing at Cardenas.

#### Spanish Gunboat Attacks.

London April 27.—A Havana dispatch says an American torpedo boat destroyer fired on the Spanish gunboat Lijera, at Cardenas, shooting away a smoke-stack. The destroyer retired, damaged.

#### The Oregon Speeding Home.

Washington, D. C., April 27.—The Navy Department has received word that the United States battleship Oregon was spoken a few hundred miles below Montevideo. She was booming along under forced draft and making great speed. She will stop at Montevideo for coal and proceed to Key West in all possible haste. Navy officers are not at all concerned for her safety.

#### Off to Bombard Our Ports.

Bayonne, France, April 27.—A Spanish squadron, consisting of four ironclads and three torpedo boat destroyers, sailed for the United States yesterday. It was rumored that the squadron was to steam direct across the Atlantic and bombard Northern ports of the United States.

#### To Land 2,000 Marines in Cuba.

Washington, April 27.—President McKinley, Secretary Alger and General Miles will confer today and arrange plans for the invasion of Cuba. It is proposed to make a naval demonstration before Havana and land 2,000 marines under the protection of the fire of the insurgents, who will co-operate.

#### Fleet Still at Cape Verde.

Cape Verde Islands, April 27.—The Spanish fleet is still here, at 4 o'clock this afternoon.

#### Fight a Bond Issue.

Washington, April 26.—The senate silver men will not permit bond legislation, and insist that revenue under the new taxes shall be sufficient; that if additional money be required, emergency greenbacks, not bonds, shall be authorized, not compromise coin bonds.

## PROCEEDINGS IN APRIL COURT

### A Large List of Commonwealth Cases

### IMPORTANT CASES TRIED

The Civil List Disposed—Harry Gensberg, the Peddler, Falls in his Prosecution and Must Pay the Costs—The Trial of Rev. Erdman to Begin To-day

April term of court convened on Monday morning with his Honor John G. Love, president judge, on the bench.

The greater part of the morning session was taken up in hearing motions and petitions presented by the different members of the bar.

On motion of C. M. Bower, Esq., Martin L. Snyder, Esq., a member of the Northumberland County Bar and W. A. Everts a member of the Columbia County Bar were admitted to practice in the several Courts of Centre county.

The list of Grand Jurors was then called and L. E. Swartz, a farmer from Walker township, was chosen foreman, and after being sworn and charged by the Court they retired to pass upon the several bills of indictment which will be laid before them by the District Attorney.

After proclamation the constables of the several boroughs and townships of Centre county then made the quarterly returns to the Court of Quarter Sessions.

The list of traverse jurors was then called and about forty answered to their names. The list of civil cases was then gone over and those for trial marked.

The first case taken up was, H. R. Curtin, administrator of etc., of Constans Curtin, deceased, vs. Austin Curtin, H. R. Curtin, Andrew Curtin, Jr., John G. Curtin and James L. Curtin, Frederick A. Curtin and Harry H. Curtin, minor children of James B. Curtin, deceased, Virginia E. Curtin, widow of said James B. Curtin, deceased, and John M. Dale, administrator c. t. a. of Elizabeth I. Curtin, deceased, summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. Verdict in favor of the plaintiff for all the right title and interest originally in Constans Curtin in and to all the premises described in the writ; this verdict however to be released in case the defendants pay into court within ten days the sum of \$35,976, being the purchase money and interest on a certain article of agreement dated April 28, A. D., 1877, and recorded in the office for the recording of deeds in Centre county in Miscellaneous Book "E" page 362 etc., the said sum of \$35,976 if paid within said time not to be taken out of court until a proper deed approved by the court is filed in this cause for the benefit of the defendants A. G. Curtin, Jr., administrator of etc., of Roland Curtin, deceased, vs. Austin Curtin, Andrew G. Curtin Jr., and John M. Dale, administrator c. t. a. of Eliza I. Curtin, deceased, summons in assumpsit, plea not guilty. Verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for all the right title and interest originally in Roland in and to all the premises described in the writ; this verdict however to be released in case the defendants pay into court within ten days the sum of \$49,966.66, being the purchase money and interest on a certain article of agreement dated April 28, A. D., 1877, and recorded in Miscellaneous Book "E" page 387 etc., the said sum of \$49,966.66 if paid within said time not to be taken out of court until a proper deed approved by the court is filed in this case for the benefit of the defendants.

H. R. Curtin, executor of the last will and testament of John Curtin, deceased, vs. H. R. Curtin, John G. Curtin and James L. Curtin, Frederick A. Curtin and Harry H. Curtin, minor children of James B. Curtin, deceased, and Virginia E. Curtin, widow of said James B. Curtin, deceased, summons in ejectment, plea not guilty. Verdict in favor of the plaintiffs for all the right title and interest originally in John Curtin in and to all the premises described in the writ; this verdict however to be released in case the defendant pay into court within ten days the sum of \$49,966.66, being the purchase money and interest on a certain article of agreement dated April 28, A. D., 1877, and recorded in Miscellaneous Book "E" page 388 etc., the said sum of \$49,966.66 if paid within said time not to be taken out of court until a proper deed approved by the court is filed in this case for the benefit of the defendants.

R. L. Pierce vs. Thomas Byron, appeal plea non-assumpsit. Continued at the costs of the defendant.

Hiron F. Corbin and Herman E. Bauhaug, trading as H. F. Corbin & Co., vs. John Erb, appeal plea non-assumpsit. The defendant confessed a judgment in favor of the plaintiffs.

Simon Schloss vs. John Erb, appeal, plea non-assumpsit. The defendant confessed a judgment in favor of the plaintiff.

A. L. Hench vs. James Kerstetter, appeal, plea non-assumpsit. Settled.

Phoebe Emerick vs. Mattie Emerick, appeal, plea non-assumpsit. Settled.

## THE MODERN BATTLESHIP.

### Safest Instrument of Slaughter Yet Devised—Modern Warfare.

Modern warfare kills quicker and further away; that is the chief difference between it and the ancient—a difference in kind rather than in degree. In spite of 1,000-pound projectiles that push into sheets of steel as though the obstruction were so much cheese; in spite of guns that can throw these projectiles 13 miles; in spite of rapid-fire guns that discharge 1,000 steel-capped shells in a minute, the crew of a modern man-o'-war is in no more danger than were the crews of the old-time wooden vessels of Captain Marryat's day when Jack knew nothing of the engine rooms and armor plate.

The danger from fire and magazine explosion was more imminent in the past, for ships were constructed almost entirely of inflammable material. Iron and steel protection had not been introduced. The fire squad was as busy as the fighters, and had fully as hard work to do. One great endeavor then was to set the enemy on fire.

In the modern ship wood work has been practically eliminated. Even the decks and bulkheads are now made of steel. Only the interior trimmings are of wood, and not enough of these are used to offer opportunity for a large fire. But some commanders will order even these to be torn out if the ship is going into action. Wooden decks prove dangerous, indeed, in the battle of Yula. They are gone forever.

Of course, there is no extra room on the "mosquito." Every bit of space is utilized for the coal bunkers and the machinery, leaving only such space as is absolutely necessary for the men and officers to squeeze through. There is scarcely any room on these craft speed being their primary requirement. Comfort is not considered. The Mosquito goes as close to the enemy as possible without being discovered; presents its bill and gets away if it can. The chances are about even that it does and does not get away. The mechanism of these little vessels is delicate, and they are often out of order. Rough weather will put them on the sick list in short order, consequently they are not adapted for cruising far from home. Four of the six that started South a few days ago had to be overhauled on the second day they were out. Among naval officers there is no keen competition for torpedo boat commands.

Cruisers are safe or not, chiefly according to their speed. Their principle business is to destroy commerce. They chase around and worry others while themselves making merry. Except for mines and torpedoes, which would make a mouthful of the most powerful vessel afloat, cruisers have as good a chance to survive an engagement as the best of the old-timers. Battleships, which are practically floating fortresses, like the cruisers, must maintain perpetual vigilance against torpedoes and eschew mines, but otherwise they are not likely to go down. They cannot be blown out of the water except from underneath. The most terrific bombardment will not sink them. It might, if the commander were obstinate, destroy the batteries and all the crew, but a wise captain would surrender when he found his vessel was so damaged he had no chance to win. The modern ship is far preferable to anything of oak and teak, the safest instrument of slaughter yet devised.

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## CO. B. LEFT FOR MT. GRETTA

### Took Their Departure on Wednesday Evening.

### AN ENTHUSIASTIC GATHERING

Thousands Turn out to Bid the Soldier Boys Good-By—Escorted to the Train by the Old Veterans—The Complete Roster of the Company—Many Volunteers Who Are Anxious to go—Another Company Forming.

An unusual demonstration occurred on our streets Wednesday afternoon. Many thousands of people, from all surrounding communities thronged the main thoroughfares. The American flag profusely decorated the buildings on every side. The business houses were closed, the artisan and mechanic forsook his avocation, the courts temporarily adjourned in honor of an event that was solemn and momentous. It was a farewell to the soldier boys of Company B, N. G. P. of Bellefonte, upon their departure to answer the call of the chief magistrate, President McKinley, for volunteers to defend the nation in the present crisis with Spain.

In pursuance of a proclamation of Burgess F. E. Naginay, a public meeting was held at 3 p. m. in front of the court house. The consolidated bands of Milesburg, Coleville and the Undines lead the procession from the armory. Next came the escort of old soldiers of the late war, numbering about a hundred, and last Company B, under command of Captain Hugh S. Taylor, with sixty men in line who received a magnificent ovation.

They first marched to the station and removed their accouterments and returned to the diamond.

Geo. L. Potter, as chairman of the meeting, opened with an appropriate address. Eloquent addresses were then made by D. F. Fortney, Esq., Judge Love and Gen. W. F. Reeder. Captain Taylor concluded in a few stirring words, thanking the public for this kindly expression of good feeling and patriotic sentiment, and assured all that the boys of Company B would faithfully discharge every obligation they assumed and would render their best service in

defence of the country's flag and the preservation of the nation's honor. His closing remarks were greeted with great applause.

At the depot an immense crowd assembled to bid them a good-by. It was here that many touching scenes transpired. As the soldier boys mingled with friends there were many tear-stained cheeks and sobbing hearts of mothers, wives, sisters and dear ones. As there is no assurance where they may be called, how long they may be gone and whether all may return, there was a solemnity about the occasion that truly was impressive and a seriousness about their departure that thoughtful persons could appreciate.

At 4:44 as the train for Tyrone pulled out, the boys waived their flags and a mighty cheer arose that continued until the train disappeared from view.

Company B goes direct to Mt. Gretna, where the entire state guard will be mobilized. From there the state's full quota of men will be organized as volunteers, and placed at the disposal of the President, for whatever purpose they may be needed, either to guard the sea coast from Spanish invasion, or proceed to Cuba to carry out the demands of the country to drive the Spanish arms from that island.

COMPANY B ROSTER.  
Roster of Company B, Fifth Regiment, National Guard of Pennsylvania:

CAPTAIN—Hugh S. Taylor.  
1ST LIEUT.—George L. Jackson.  
2ND LIEUT.—Charles J. Taylor.  
1ST SERGEANT—Philip F. Garbrick.

SERGEANTS—James W. Alexander, Charles Gares, Samuel S. Taylor, Samuel D. Gettig.

Private—William C. Smeltzer, John W. Lasse, James Morrison, George A. Eberhart, John C. Keeler, Harry H. Ryan.

MUSICIANS—George A. McCloskey, Samuel B. Shope, Albert Roberts.

PRIVATES—William F. Barnes, Roger T. Bayard, Jacob H. Cole, R. Clarence Daley, Abraham H. Emenhizer, William A. Fishburn, Harry R. Grist, Charles Guisewhite, John Guisewhite, James Grenoble, D. Oliver Hazel, Horace M. Harper, John M. Hazel, John Hartsack, R. F. Jodon, J. C. Jodon, Charles H. Kase, George D. Keller, Hickman J. Kellerman, S. Lundy Lucas, Thomas C. Mallory, George P. Miller, Harry S. Miller, John Morrison, Anthony G. Noll, Howard E. Wells, Lemuel R. Poorman, Abner Rider, Harry E. Rhoads, D. Eber Rothrock, M. J. Shuey, Andrew D. Smeltzer, Newton B. Spangler, Ernest F. Stine, Samuel Solt, Edward R. Taylor, Frank H. Taylor, Joseph P. Thal, Peter W. Toot, John D. Toot, Willis Williams, James Wilson.

The following volunteers were taken in the last day and went with the company: Messrs Ammerman, Shively, Long, Neff Crane, Sunday, Williams, Osmer, Morrison, Rhodes, Curtin.

RECENT VOLUNTEERS.  
The following persons made application to Captain Taylor to join Company B. The muster was complete and a few were taken. All Others will be enlisted if a second company organizes here. In case Company B goes to Cuba, a home company will be organized at once, to take its place:

Fillmore—Frank Huey.  
Millheim—H. M. Hoy.  
Milesburg—C. W. Smith, John Franks, James Noll, Frank Baird, Tomer Hugg, Penn Hall—H. S. McManly, S. A. Frank.

Phillipsburg—Samuel Graham, T. G. Fleming, C. T. Warring.  
Bayone, N. J.—W. M. Clyde.  
Howard—Harry Neff, Clyde Long.  
Fleming—Oscar Shuey, S. H. Rhodes, Oscar A. Shrivar, Geo. D. Hoover.  
Roland—Samuel Bathurst, Lattimer Curtin, Arthur T. Bathurst.  
Pleasant Gap—R. C. Faust.  
Lemont—Linn Bottorf, Geo. B. Thompson.

Bellefonte—Clarence Osmer, Geo. Sunday, Jno. Hoy, Harry Williams, H. Jackson, Scott Harris, Grey