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The Centre Democrat.

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CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

BELLEVILLE, PA., THURSDAY MAY 12, 1898.

VOL. 20, NO. 19.

Spanish Fleet Homeward Bound

Not Very Anxious to Come to Cuban Waters to Meet Our Fleet

DEWEY'S VICTORY COMPLETE

An Aggressive Cuban Campaign Started--Combined Attack to be Made on Havana--To Hold the Philippine Islands--Spain is on the Run--Rioting and Revolt--Dynasty in Danger.

The war situation has changed very little during the past week. The only important event was the news from Dewey that his victory was complete, without the loss of a vessel or a man.

We know a good thing and will hold on to these valuable possessions. Several vessels and infantry will soon leave the Pacific coast to enable him to take possession of the Philippine islands and administer its affairs.

That formidable Spanish fleet, that for weeks had been rendezvousing at the Cape Verde Islands, off the coast of Africa, is reported to have gone back to Spain again. They evidently heard from Dewey. Sampson's fleet had left to give them an engagement, but they never crossed the Atlantic.

An active campaign is now mapped out for the capture of Havana and the complete overthrow of Spanish authority in Cuba. An immense army will soon be landed there. The Insurgents will be supplied with all the necessary arms and food and when everything is ready the land and naval forces will reduce Gen. Blanco's fortifications in a few sharp and decisive actions.

As there is little annoyance now from Spanish gunboats the army can quickly be transported.

The news of Dewey's sweeping victory has demoralized the Spanish government. Riots are the result; a revolution is brewing. The dynasty is in danger of being overthrown and the Queen Regent and her son are in danger.

Many think the powers will soon intervene and induce Spain to submit to the inevitable: give up Cuba and let the United States hold the Philippine islands until a sufficient war indemnity is paid.

Turn to pages 2 and 3 for the detail war news of the week. The following is the news of the past twenty-four hours:

LATEST WAR NEWS.

The Navy Department now knows, through an official announcement made by Admiral Bermejo, Spain's Minister of Marine at Madrid, that the Cape Verde Island fleet did not return to Cadiz, Spain, but is at sea, under orders. Hence it is still hoped that Admiral Sampson will be able to deliver, at or near San Juan, the crushing blow that should speedily end the war. No change has been made in his orders to this effect. Furthermore, it is said there need be little fear of any of Spain's missing fleets proceeding to Manila to dislodge Dewey. That would leave the mother country's coasts unprotected. If Admiral Sampson cannot find the foe near Porto Rico he may be ordered back with his most efficient ships to silence and destroy the Spanish forts in and near Havana. The Administration, while open to a Spanish offer of settlement to end the war, will insist that Spain abandon both Cuba and the Philippines.

Washington, May 11.—The naval officials were disappointed by the news that the Spanish flying squadron had arrived at Cadiz, Spain.

The safety of the Oregon from attack is now completely assured and the way is clear for military operations in Cuba. On the other hand it is believed that no enduring peace can be secured until the Spanish navy has been destroyed and it now appears that to do this our sailors must make up their minds to go after the Spaniards.

It was suggested by some of the members of the war board that there was just a possibility that the Spanish squadron might make a quick passage into the Pacific through the Suez canal and attack Dewey at Manila.

To take this course they would have a long start of any pursuing fleet from our side of the Atlantic. It is scarcely believed, however, that the Spanish are willing to take the great risk of exposing to our attack their own home ports by the withdrawal of so considerable a proportion of their naval strength as would be required to overmatch Dewey.

Nothing was heard from Sampson today. Whether this means an attack on Porto Rico or not cannot be learned. The quartermaster general has gotten under charter twenty-seven merchant steamers for the transport of troops and roughly speaking these should carry about 20,000 men. Others are being procured as rapidly as possible.

They're Furious.

London, May 11, 10:18 a. m.—A Madrid dispatch says that the people in that city are furious over the return of the Cape Verde fleet, as it strengthens the conviction in their minds that the Spanish government is afraid to meet the United States in a battle. So great is the dissatisfaction that the mobs are again at work and rioting has been resumed in the streets of Madrid.

Early Abandonment.

London, May 11, 10:43 a. m.—At the exchange in this city this morning American securities opened weak, but they im-

proved when it became known that the Spanish Cape Verde fleet had returned to their own waters. The inference here is that this return trip of the Spanish fleet foreshadows the early abandonment of the struggle by Spain.

Miles Will Be There.

Tampa, Fla., May 11.—The "Gussie" sailed for Cuba shortly after 1 p. m. with two companies of United States troops and large supply of guns and ammunition for the Cuban soldiers.

Schley's Fleet to Go to Cuba.

Washington, May 11, 2:42 p. m.—It is believed that orders have been issued for the flying squadron to make toward Cuba to fill the gap made by the absence of Admiral Sampson's fleet.

Fleet is Not At Cadiz.

London, May 11.—A Daily Mail Madrid dispatch says:

"Admiral Bermejo, Minister of Marine, denies the story published that the Cape Verde squadron has returned to Cadiz. He affirms that this fleet is at present just where it ought to be, according to instruction given it."

"As papers are prohibited from publishing any news about naval movements, it is difficult to ascertain the truth."

Our Subjects at Manila.

Hongkong, May 11.—Wealthy families belonging to the Philippine Islands are leaving Hongkong for Manila. They appear before Consul Wildman every day, and ask to be permitted to take the oath of allegiance to the United States.

Spain's Destroyer Lost.

London, May 11.—A dispatch to the Globe from Gibraltar says a British steamer, just arrived, reports officially that she passed yesterday evening a Spanish torpedo-boat destroyer, which was guarding Algeiras Bay and the Straits.

Shortly afterward all the lights of the destroyer were extinguished, a terrific explosion followed immediately, and the destroyer disappeared. She had three torpedo tubes, carried over 100 tons of coal, and had a crew of 55 men.

Killed This Morning.

Cirrwford Switzer, who lived or boarded at State College, was struck by the Bellefonte Central train at Bodle's curve, near Hunters Park this morning. He was a man about 60 years and partly deaf. He was an old soldier. The body was taken to Pine Grove Mills.

—Faust, at the opera house on Monday evening 16th, by Hubert Labadie as Mephisto. A car load of scenery and electrical apparatus accompany this attraction.

—Miss Maud Frink, of Tyrone, is a pleasant visitor at the home of her cousin, Miss Jennie Stover, of this place.

—The price of the Centre Democrat and 3-times-a-week World has been reduced from \$1.75 to \$1.65 per year. This is a great combination at a low price. We always furnish "The Most News for the Least Money."

—12 cabinet size photos 99c. at Shufflers.

OUR BOYS AT MT GRETTNA

Stormy Weather and Rain During the Week

COMPANY B'S GOOD RECORD

It is the Crack Company in the Camp—Was Mustered in as Volunteers—What the Boys are Doing—Interesting Letter from S. D. Gettig, Esq.

CAMP D. H. HASTINGS

MT. GRETTNA, MAY 8, 1898.

Editor Kurtz:—Pennsylvania soldier boys are still encamped on Gretna field and making the best of it. We had rain and mud for the last three days. Today (Sunday) was one of the worst days in camp, save the first day, since the Fifth Regiment landed here, April 28. All the boys could do to day was to hold their tents down and try to keep dry, which was almost impossible. Many of the men will have wet beds to sleep in tonight and camping streets are a literal mortar, and will have to be cleaned up to-morrow morning, when the non-commissioned officers will have their hands full in keeping the men at work, as a soldier is strictly opposed to working, if it is possible to avoid it. Monday was devoted to company and battalion drills so far as the Second Brigade was concerned, and the First Brigade was mustered into the service.

Tuesday, the second day of May, was the great day for the Second Brigade, being the day to be mustered into the service. The Fifth Regiment was called into the field at eleven o'clock, the Fourteenth and Sixteenth having preceded it, and the Eighteenth, Fifteenth and Tenth following in the order named: Company B being the second company in the regiment, was also the second company mustered and when given the opportunity to volunteer into the volunteer service five men answered "No," being as follows: Corporal W. C. Smeltzer, privates John Hartscock, Harry E. Rhoads, John D. Toot and Howard H. Wells.

The Third Brigade was mustered in on Wednesday. The First Brigade had 420 men to say "No," the Second Brigade 98, and the Third Brigade 320, so that it will be readily seen that the Second Brigade made the best record, being the largest of the three brigades and had the least men to refuse to muster. It took considerable nerve to say "no" to say "yes." Some refused to volunteer on account of circumstances at home, and others for reasons best known to themselves.

Dr. Staver and Dr. Hayes, being sworn into the volunteer service of the federal government, began to examine the men physically on Thursday afternoon. Company B's turn came on Friday forenoon and the following named members of Company B failed to pass the examining board on account of age or some physical ailment or other, some of whom actually cried when they found out they had been rejected by the examining board: Sergeant, Samuel S. Taylor, privates William W. Ammerman, Jacob H. Cole, Anthony G. Noll, Ernest F. Stine, Samuel Solt, and Mahlon J. Shuey.

Governor D. H. Hastings did not forget the boys from his home as he came and shook hands with every man in Company B after the muster and before they left the field, and in the afternoon paid a visit to Company B's quarters and gave the men words of encouragement, and had expected to take supper with the company but was called away. His place was taken by Col. Burchfield and Lieutenant Col. Elder who dined with the officers of the company.

Sergeant Taylor got a furlough home on Friday morning, and private N. B. Spangler on Saturday evening, and both will be back early in the week to assume their duties. Private Grist is filling the position of company clerk until Spangler returns. Private Bottorf also got a furlough home on Friday evening on account of his wife's sickness and will be back early in the week.

All the captains of the regiment have been ordered to recruit their companies to eighty men. Captain Taylor left for Bellefonte on Friday morning to bring out forty recruits, and the new company recruiting back home, will have a chance to show their metal and demonstrate their sincerity for patriotism and defending their country's honor and the flag, or as tin-soldiers only, as the eyes of Company B are upon them. The Fifth Regiment furnished the Brigade guard for the second time this week, Company B having the honor again as the guard was in charge of a sergeant from Company B.

The health of Company B's men has been remarkable, considering the inclement weather experienced since being encamped here. The only case so far being private Bottorf who had contracted a bad cold and spent Thursday

night in the hospital, but was able to be out again on Friday morning.

The friends at home may be interested in the formation of the regiment, that is how the companies line up in the regimental formation, and the writer will here give it:—First company on the right, Company A, followed by Company B color company, Company F and Company G, all in the first battalion; and in the second battalion, Company C, Company E, Company H and Company D.

Sergeant Major, B. A. Musser went home on Friday morning, as the service of Battalion Sergeant Major were dispensed with, under the new order, and he was sent home until called for by the colonel. Commissary Sergeant, R. F. Hunter, left for home on Friday evening as the commissary department was taken charge of by a regular army officer on Saturday morning and the services of the officers of the commissary department, above that of the regiment, were dispensed with and they were ordered home.

The boys were sorry to lose the company of Sergeant's Hunter and Musser, but such are the orders of superior officers, and a good soldier will always obey orders and do his duty whatever it may be.

As stated in my letter of last week, Company B is color company, and Sergeant Price, of Hollidaysburg, who has been Color Sergeant for several years of the regiment, being too old to enter the service, Sergeant Garis of Company B has been appointed by the colonel to fill the position to begin Monday May 9; he being now on the non-commissioned staff of Col. Burchfield. Private Frank H. Taylor of Company B has also been appointed as Regimental Bugler and is therefore on the regimental roll, so that Company B has had several honors conferred on her, and well may it be as this company is always prompt, under the management of Captain Taylor.

Captain Taylor returned from Bellefonte on Sunday morning at six o'clock with forty-three recruits to fill up the company, being the first captain to fill up his company to the required number of men, as required by the recent order promulgated on the 8th day of May. The men were furnished with gray blankets, and will be examined by the examining board on Monday, and those that pass will be utilized to fill up the company.

In reference to these recruits and visitors of the company will have more to say next week.

Among the prominent visitors to Company B's quarters during the past week were Miss Dittler, of Lancaster, S. M. Buck, of Philadelphia, S. S. Crissman, of Philadelphia and Andrew Brockerhoff, of Bellefonte.

A MIGHTY FORCE.

With Volunteers and Regulars Our Army is Bigger Than Great Britain's.

With the 125,000 volunteers and the 61,000 regulars, according to the terms of the Army Re-organization bill, the United States has armed and equipped a larger army than Great Britain by 30,000. England's active army is less than 160,000 strong. America's position among the Powers of the earth when she has finished with Spain will be similar to her fine state at the close of the civil war, and for several years after. Any European power or powers who want to intervene with the idea of putting pressure upon the United States in this little difficulty with Spain would better do so before this war is over. Afterward we will be in the pink of condition to take care of Old World meddlers.

With the regular establishment recruited up to the full of its newly authorized strength and with the volunteers in the field the combined army is larger by 3,000 than the total volunteers and militia in service July 1, 1861, two months and a half after Sumter surrendered. It is almost as large as the Army of the Potomac in the Spring of '62, when McClellan began the Peninsula campaign.

When the civil war opened, the regular army was only 14,000 strong. At no time in the war did its strength exceed 20,000.

Divided according to the arms of the service, the volunteers will make a splendid army of 113,000 infantrymen, a brigade of 5,800 cavalrymen, another of 3,300 light artillerymen, and another of 4,000 heavy artillerymen. In the regulars over half of the 61,000 are infantry, 50 of foot soldiers we have altogether nearly 150,000. This is almost as many as the total number of soldiers who fought on both sides of the three-day battle of Gettysburg. If we should have to put another army in the field, Spain, by studying our history a little, may be sure that we can do it quickly. After the disasters on the Peninsula of 1862 over 80,000 troops were enlisted, organized, armed, equipped and sent into the field in less than a month. Sixty thousand troops repeatedly went into the field in the war within four weeks. Within 20 days the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin sent to the front 90,000 infantry. America can repeat these achievements, if necessary.

THE ADVANCE OF WHEAT

Leiters Prophecy of \$1.50 Wheat Came True

IT IS BOUNDING UPWARD.

There is a Scarcity Abroad—Import Duties Suspended—A Good Crop Predicted—Total Production for the past Year—Increase this Season.

The extraordinary advance in wheat is the wonder of the commercial world, yet the causes are apparent on the surface, but how long they may last is not so clear. Young Leiter has proved something more than a prophet with his prediction several months ago of \$1.50 wheat and bread riots in Europe. He has his reward for the faith that was in him, generally regarded at the time as the extreme of nonsense, in millions of profit, out of the most extensive deal in wheat ever conducted in this or any other country.

The primary cause of the advance in wheat is the apprehended bread famine in Europe. Evidence of this is found in the fact that France, a great wheat-growing country, has suspended until July 1 the duty of 36 cents a bushel. The abrogation of this important source of revenue means much as to the limited supply of wheat available. Italy has also suspended its duty, and Spain has prohibited the export of wheat, and now admits bread stuffs free. Austria-Hungary is agitating the repeal of its tax, and Russia has forbidden the export of grain. In Italy the conditions are serious. There, as well as in Spain, bread riots are reported, and the raiding of supplies in store. In Italy martial law has been proclaimed in some of its provinces, and the bread riots are held to be part of a political agitation. In Germany the government is urged to suspend the import duties on wheat. Bread riots in Europe mean political danger to the weaker countries.

The war with Spain bears only a vague relation to the advance in wheat. The small crops abroad cannot be ascribed to that or the bountiful crops in this country. The advance is due to the immutable law of supply and demand.

American farmers—and the Leiters as well—will profit largely by the advance. With favorable conditions we will have the largest wheat crop in America this year ever known, as the advance in prices stimulated the planting of a larger area. From the farmers, indirectly, the rising market will boom every channel of commercial and industrial activity. When the farmers are in funds the whole country prospers.

Some conceptions of the extent to which the American farmers have profited by the foreign crop failure may be gained by an inspection of the results of the special wheat investigation instituted by the agricultural department at the close of the harvest of 1897, which have just been published in tabulated form. It is learned from this investigation that the total production of wheat for the year was 530,149,168 bushels, and the average price in all the States for the year was 80.8 cents. The area under wheat cultivation was 39,465,066 acres, the average yield per acre being 12.7 bushels. The value of the total wheat production is placed at \$428,547,121. The total production of corn was 1,902,967,933 bushels, valued at \$501,072,952. The wheat crop of 530,000,000 bushels last year may be increased this year fifty or a hundred millions, and then if prices are maintained the farmers, and through them all the people, may have a year of unbounded prosperity.

About War Ships.

A battleship is a ship designed to fight in line of battle, and is distinguished from a cruiser by its heavy armor plating and slower speed. Battleships are classified with respect to their tonnage and the number of guns they carry, battleships of the first-class being of greatest tonnage and largest number of guns. The United States battleships of the first class vary in tonnage from 10,228 to 11,585. The loss of the Maine left the navy with but one second class battleship, the Texas, with a tonnage of 6,375. The Vizcaya, of the Spanish navy, which recently paid a visit to New York, is an armored cruiser, of 6,890 tons. In the United States navy there are two armored cruisers, the New York and the Brooklyn, the former of 9,135 tons and the latter of 8,840 tons.

Paul Kotsch on the St. Paul.

Paul Kotsch, Jr., who was the defendant in the recent murder trial in Clinton county, enlisted in the navy at Philadelphia a few days ago. He was assigned on the St. Paul, which vessel sailed from Camden, Thursday, with Captain Sigbee in command.

EXPENSE OF THE CAMP.

Interesting Information Concerning the Boys in Blue.

From the Camp Hastings, Mt. Gretna notes in the Phila. Press, we clip the following bit of information: An idea of the expense of the camp can be gathered from the following:

Privates receive \$1.50 a day; corporals, \$1.75; sergeants, \$2.00; and first sergeants, \$3.00. Among the regimental commissioned officers the second lieutenants receive \$3.87 a day; first lieutenant, \$4.17; captains, \$5.00; majors, \$6.00; lieutenant colonels, \$8.00; and colonels, \$9.50. The three brigadier generals receive \$13.00 a day each, and Major General Snowden receives \$20.83 a day, regular army pay.

As soon as the men are mustered into the United States volunteer service and pass under the control of the general government, the pay from the State ceases, even though they still remain in camp here. At present as National Guardsmen the privates in the ranks are paid at the rate of \$45 a month. In the volunteer army they will receive only 15.20 a month, just about one-third. The pay of the other grades is correspondingly reduced.

Peculiar Accident.

A correspondent writing from Queen Bedford county, relates the following concerning a recent accident near that place in the Mountain Echo of Ostenburg: "A boy named Sewall Knisley was hauling lime from Sarah Furnace. While crossing a stream, about three-fourths of a mile from Queen, the bridge which was about five feet from the water, gave way and the horses, wagon and the boy went down over the bridge. The boy fell under the horses and was severely kicked on the head, but was not seriously injured. The wagon caught fire from the sacking lime, but water being close it was soon extinguished. The lime, floating down the creek, turned the water to a milk white and hundreds of eels and fish were picked up below the bridge; as many as twenty eels were picked up by several along the creek."

Four Escape From a County Jail.

Four prisoners escaped from the Northumberland county jail Monday. They cut a hole through the cell wall leading to the jail yard. Once in the yard, they climbed to the top of the wall and descended to the ground by means of rope ladders. The convicts were Frank Betz and John Stitzer, of Shamokin, and William Smith and Harry Krisher, of Centrella. They were serving two years for larceny and occupied one cell. Warden Deitrich started in pursuit, but failed to find any trace of them aside from finding part of the rope ladder about a mile from town.

Large Army.

In addition to the 125,000 volunteers called out by the President from the various States, he is authorized by an emergency law to call out 13,000 to "organize companies, troops, battalions, or regiments possessing special qualifications from the Nation at large." This is to cover the "rough riders" from the West and the yellow-fever immunes. Altogether, with the increase of the regular army to 62,000, the President will have at his command 200,000, as follows: Regular army, 62,000; volunteers, 125,000; special service, 13,000.

Death of Miss Lillie M. Kephart.

Miss Lillie M. Kephart, youngest daughter of J. M. Kephart, dec'd, died at the home of her sister, Mrs. S. K. Dickerson, Roanoke, Va., on Wednesday, May 4th. Her death was due to spinal meningitis. The body was brought to the home of her uncle, Caleb H. Kephart, at Fillmore. The funeral took place Saturday morning. Interment in Half Moon cemetery. The remains were accompanied home by her two sisters, Mrs. S. K. Dickerson and Mrs. W. C. Tate and their families.

Railroad Contract Let.

Contracts were let this week for the building of thirty miles of the railroad work known as the Pittsburg extension of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg system. Ten miles of this was let to the Pennsylvania Construction and Investment Co., of which A. E. Patton, of Curwensville, is at the head, and who is constructing the first twelve miles let, including the big tunnel, ten miles to Thomas Collins & Co., of Bellefonte, Pa. and ten miles to C. J. Ryan, of New York.

Keep the Sidewalks Repaired.

The supreme court has sustained the decision of the McKean county court in the case of Jennie O. Miller vs. the city of Bradford. Miss Miller fell and broke her leg on a sidewalk in March, 1895, and the court awarded her damages to the amount of \$3,000.

Spring Time is Here.

So is Spring's Sarsaparilla for the Blood. Guaranteed better than the best. For sale at Krumer's Pharmacy.