

The Centre Democrat.

CHAS. R. KURTZ, Ed. and Prop.

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THE INVASION OF CUBA

A Large Fleet Will Soon Land Troops at Santiago

SEVERAL LAND ENGAGEMENTS

The Spanish Fleet is Still Bottled Up at Santiago—The Landing of Troops Will be the Next Important Step—No Important News During the Past Week.

There has been no important development during the past week in the war situation. Our fleets still maintain a strict blockade of all Cuban ports and Cervera's squadron is still bottled up in the harbor at Santiago, unable to escape and evidently afraid to make the attempt.

A number of points near Santiago were shelled by our boats and a landing of marines was effected. These in turn were attacked by Spanish forces during the night and resulted in some losses. Spies were landed and they made a careful inspection of the harbor and found that Cervera's fleet was lying inside, so that there is no more uncertainty on that point. The important event of the week was the sailing of a portion of the army from Tampa, Florida, likely for Santiago and Porto Rico. More will follow, as soon as they can be equipped and conveyed across to the scene of action. It will take some hard work to dislodge some of the Spanish fortifications, on the island, and it may not be accomplished as soon as was anticipated. Havana, according to reports, is suffering for food supplies and want may compel them to capitulate without firing a gun.

Many rumors are afloat as to the intervention of Germany, but that is not a likelihood as complications at home will point out the wisdom for her to keep hands off.

The war news of the past week will be found on pages 2 and 3, while the events of the past day will be found in the following condensed paragraphs:

40 SPANIARDS KILLED.

Dashing Attack on the Spanish Camp Near Guantanamo.

United States Camp, Guantanamo Bay, June 14, Via Kingston, Jamaica, June 15.

The United States marines and their Cuban allies today made their first aggressive move and attacked the Spanish camp, situated five miles from the American entrenchments.

They completely routed a force of 400 Spaniards, breaking up their camp and destroying the well which supplied them with water.

One American was slightly wounded, two Cubans were killed and four Cubans were wounded.

The Spanish loss is believed to be forty men killed. Fifteen bodies have already been discovered.

TROOPS FOR DEWEY.

San Francisco, June 15.—The second fleet of transports laden with troops for the Philippines weighed anchor about 1 o'clock and is now on its way to Manila. This force with the 2600 who are enroute will give Dewey a supporting force of over 6000 well-armed, well-equipped and well-seasoned soldiers.

It is expected that the expedition which sailed to-day will arrive at Manila about July 4.

Havana Can Fight Hard.

A Chronicle special from Kingston, dated June 14, says: "H. M. S. Talbot has just arrived from Havana. Phil Robinson, the correspondent, says that the Spaniards are determined to make a desperate defense of Havana, which has now been rendered practically impregnable from the sea by a mile and a half of batteries on either side, with twelve six-inch guns. The channel has been thoroughly mined. The garrison is confident and in excellent spirits.

Intense misery exists there. The price of flour per barrel is \$30. The Spanish ships Purissima and Conception are to start to-day with \$75,000 worth of meat and vegetables aboard, professedly clearing for French Island, but really going to Cienfuegos to send provisions to Blanco. Hospitals are crowded, and people and horses are dying in the streets for want of food."

Germany's Position.

The state department at Washington has received no information to indicate that Germany contemplates interfering with the United States in Asiatic waters. Should Germany make such a move she will be interrogated as to its meaning.

For Annexation.

On Wednesday a vote was taken in the House for the annexation of Hawaii which resulted: 209 for annexation, and 91 against. The large majority was a complete surprise.

COMPLEXITY OF BATTLESHIPS.

Mechanical Appliances Do Nearly all the Fine Work Except the Thinking.

In the Iowa it may almost be said that nothing is done by hand except the opening and closing of throttles and pressing of electric buttons. Her guns are loaded, trained, and fired, her ammunition hoisted, her turrets turned, her torpedoes—mechanisms of themselves—are tubed and ejected, the ship steered, her boats hoisted out and the interior lighted and ventilated, the great searchlights operated, and even orders transmitted from bridge or conning tower to all parts, by mechanical appliances. Surely no more striking view than this of the development of 35 years could be afforded.

This growth of complexity and elaboration and this almost infinite multiplication of parts and device entailed upon the naval architect and constructor demands difficulties never dreamed of in the earlier days. The staff required to design and construct an Iowa is multiplied in number and the complexity of its organization is augmented as compared with that required for the design and construction of the new ironclads almost indefinitely.

Similar conditions apply to command and management, so that while the building of a modern battleship entails enormous work and responsibility on the naval architect, contractor and staff, the effective use of her as a tool in the trade of war presents an equal variety and intricacy of problems to students of the art of naval warfare.

BANNER YEAR FOR FARMERS.

The farmers of the United States are drawing upon other parts of the world for more money in the fiscal year, which ends with this month, than in any preceding year in the history of the country. Even the high water mark of 1892, when our exports of agricultural products amounted to \$799,328,232, will be surpassed. The total exports for the year are likely to reach \$835,000,000. Never but twice have they been as much as \$700,000,000—in 1881 and 1892. Compared with the last fiscal year the increase will be fully \$150,000,000; with 1896 over \$250,000,000, and with 1895 fully 50 per cent.

In breadstuffs alone the exports will amount to nearly \$1,000,000 for each business day, more than \$100,000,000 in excess of last year. Of what the exports will be more than double those of 1897; while the increase in flour and corn will be nearly 50 per cent each. May exports of corn were larger than those of any other month in the history of the country while the total exports of corn for the year for the first time will pass the \$200,000,000 bushel line, the total in only three preceding years have reached \$100,000,000 bushels. Cornmeal oats and oatmeal and rye show a striking increase, the gain in oatmeal being more than 60 per cent, while in rye the gain is also phenomenally large.

In "provisions," including beef, hog and dairy products, there is also a marked increase, the total exports being likely to reach \$160,000,000. Most of this, however, is in hog products. The exports of beef cattle during the first 10 months of the fiscal year were 397,663, against 310,478 last year, while fresh beef in the same period fell from 242,168,034 pounds in 10 months of 1897 to 227,434,373 pounds in the corresponding 10 months of 1898. Salted beef shows a fall of 35 per cent. for the year, and canned beef from 45,349,005 pounds in the 10 months of 1897 to 34,011,124 pounds in the 10 months of 1898.

WHEAT GOING DOWN.

A glance at our market quotations shows a decided slump in the price of wheat. About a month ago it was on a jump and at many places in this country it was as high as \$1.45 per bushel, but since then it has dropped to 85 cents. Most of those who had wheat over, sold when it was at the highest points and reaped a nice profit, so that there is little left in Centre county granaries by this time. The cause of the rise and slump can easily be explained. A scarcity caused by famine abroad in last year's crops naturally caused a shortage in the world's supply and an increase in price followed. Then the course of young Leiter, of Chicago, who bought up and held all that he could, caused "a corner" in wheat and gave another unnatural advance.

The latest crop reports from abroad are to the effect that no such failure as last year will occur and the supply at home this year also will be larger than usual. This caused a reaction, and it dropped causing Leiter's failure at Chicago, and he no longer is able to control the market. Conservative men look for a large crop this season with the probability of a still further drop in prices.

LEITER's big corner in wheat is busted and his financial career is about completed.

DEMOCRATS IN CONVENTION

The Proceedings and Ticket Nominated.

GEO. A. JENKS ENDORSED

A Large Turnout From all Sections of the County—Ringed Resolutions Adopted—How the Vote Stood for the Various Offices.

The Democracy of Centre county held their primary elections on last Saturday afternoon and on Tuesday the delegates met in convention at the court house in Bellefonte. The primaries were fairly well attended as there were spirited contests for assembly, prothonotary and district attorney. The result was very uncertain as to prothonotary, and only the convention could unravel the mystery. R. M. Foster secured enough instructions to warrant his nomination on first ballot, while as to the second member nothing was definite. Mr. Spangler's nomination for district attorney also was a certainty. For congress and senator there were no contests.

With this condition of affairs there was considerable anxiety among candidates and their friends as to the result. Tuesday morning brought a large representation of leading democrats from all parts of the county to Bellefonte, and during the forenoon there was the usual animated stir about the diamond, busy politicians conferring as to the opportunities of their friends.

When the convention was called the court room was well filled. The following are the proceedings briefly told.

THE CONVENTION.

In the absence of County Chairman H. S. Taylor, the convention was called to order by Secretary J. Kennedy Johnston, at 12 noon. The call of the convention was read by Boyd Musser, with every district, represented.

Hammond Sechler, of Bellefonte, was elected permanent chairman. Messrs. Howley and Dempsey were appointed to escort Mr. Sechler to the chair. The gentleman made a brief address, thanking them for the honor conferred. He made the statement that the contest between the various candidates had been honorably conducted and left no opportunity for serious wounds among those who failed in their aspirations. A strong contrast was made between the ruling element of parties—the democrats in their conventions direct and shape the sentiments of the party, while the republican policies are handed down by a boss. He advocated that the territory acquired by conquest, in the war with Spain, should never be surrendered and it was heartily applauded.

The organization of the convention was then taken up. For secretaries H. Denning, of Philipsburg, and John A. Williams, College, were nominated, but declined. In their place Geo. T. Bush, of Bellefonte, and Ira C. Howe, of Philipsburg, were appointed. For tellers Dr. W. U. Irvin, of Julian, and A. P. Mayes, of Haines; and for reading clerk John Dunlap, of Bellefonte, were unanimously chosen.

The chairman then appointed the following committee on resolutions: S. A. McQuiston; Henry Heaton, Boggs; Wm. Dempsey, Rush; L. O. Reardon, Benner; John Smith, Gregg; Jas. P. Frank, Miles; Jas. W. Meyer, Penn. Committee on credentials: J. M. Krumrine, State College; J. J. Orndorf, Haines; H. P. Kelley, Snow Shoe; and Earnest Hess, Harris.

The next step was the nomination of candidates for Congress. Geo. T. Bush, of Bellefonte, made an enthusiastic address in presenting the name of Col. J. L. Spangler, whose nomination was made by acclamation, with the following conferees: Chas. R. Kurtz, of Bellefonte; P. J. McDonald, of Fleming; and A. B. Herd, of Philipsburg. For State Senate, Wm. C. Heinle, Esq., was the only name presented and was unanimously chosen, with the following conferees: Balser Weber, Howard; L. A. Shaffer, Bellefonte; and Geo. B. Haines, Rebersburg. Next came selection of legislative candidates and the first ripple of excitement broke. The following candidates were named and the first ballot only was necessary, to wit:

E. M. Foster, State College	65%
J. H. Wetzel, Bellefonte	50%
A. C. Thompson, Halfmoon	39 1/2%
Geo. W. Kock, Potter	21%

Messrs. Foster and Wetzel were declared the nominees. In taking this ballot, where ties occurred between candidates, fractional votes were cast from Benner and Burnside townships.

For prothonotary the greatest uncertainty prevailed and the excitement grew interesting as the balloting progressed which resulted as follows:

M. I. Gardner, Bellefonte	31%	83%	35%	48%	50
C. U. Hoffer, Philipsburg	28%	29%	29%	29%	29
D. B. Foreman, Potter	16	16	16	16	17
A. A. Plether, Walker	10	10	9		

Mr. Gardner was declared the nominee on the result of the 5th ballot.

N. B. Spangler and W. G. Runkle were candidates for District Attorney. W. G. Runkle made a happy speech withdrawing his name and urged that Mr. Spangler's nomination be made by acclamation, which was done.

The report of the committee on resolutions was next heard.

Harv Herring, of Gregg, was nominated by acclamation for County Surveyor.

Delegates for State Convention were next called and nine candidates were presented and the following elected: J. M. Kepler, Ferguson; Geo. L. Goodhart, Potter; Howard Hysong, Philipsburg; Pierce Musser, Millheim; and J. C. Meyer, Bellefonte.

J. K. Johnston was elected County Chairman for the ensuing year.

J. M. Krumrine, of Collegeboro, introduced the following resolution, which was favorably received and unanimously adopted, urging the nomination of Hon. Geo. A. Jenks, of Jefferson county, for Governor:

Resolved: That the Democracy of Centre County hereby express their confidence in the eminent ability and matchless integrity of the Hon. George A. Jenks of Jefferson county and would commend his name to the favorable consideration of the State Convention as a most desirable nominee for Governor this year. He is not identified with any of the discordant elements of our own party in this State and we believe that his nomination would be conducive to party harmony which is so much desired and so essential at this time. His nomination would merit the influence and hearty support of many patriotic and independent citizens now longing for an era of good honest State Government.

No further business before the convention it was declared adjourned.

RESOLUTIONS.

The Democratic party of Centre county, through its representatives in convention assembled, does hereby pledge itself to wage unceasing warfare against the vicious system of political profligacy and corruption that pervades our entire system of state municipal affairs.

It charges the Republican party, which has had unbridled control of all branches of the State government during the past four years, with faithlessness to every pledge made to the people. It promises in most solemn declaration, reform in legislation and the betterment of municipal government, and it has not only violated these promises but it endeavored to perpetuate by most obnoxious statutes the power of municipal rings and combinations of corrupt politicians to pass laws for the enrichment of special interests, and it has through the system of bossism, to which it has complacently submitted in the past, elevated these self-constituted leaders to the highest positions of political honor and public trust within its power to confer.

It has not only needlessly multiplied offices to make place for party hacks and the subservient tools of party leaders, thereby greatly enlarging the public expenditures and made increased taxation necessary to pay new salaries, but has without just cause recklessly increased the salaries of public officials in all departments of the State government and so depleted the public funds that the public charities of the State have been robbed of their necessary appropriations.

It has not only tolerated the unjust withholding of the public moneys appropriated to the common schools and public charities, that favorites of the treasury might be enriched and the funds for corrupting the elections might be enlarged, but its recognized leaders have conspired to thwart and defeat all legislation and every movement looking to a correction of these abuses.

For the purpose of maintaining large balances in the State treasury, and to use them for corrupt political purposes, it has withheld millions of dollars of personal property tax from the counties which were entitled to the prompt return of it.

It has created a building commission for the erection of a State capitol, whose manifest purpose is to disregard the plain mandate creating it, to perpetuate for an unnecessary length of time its unfortunate existence, to benefit the favorite contractors of some political boss and the fruit of whose actions will be a large increase of the State indebtedness.

Controlling by a two-thirds vote both the Senate and House of Representatives in the last legislative session, it exhibited a reckless disregard of the rights of the taxpayers of the State, a shameless subservience to the dictates of the party boss and a most profligate appropriation of the public moneys to wholly unnecessary if not actual unlawful purposes.

To the correction of these evils and the overthrow of the pernicious system of which these things are the outgrowth, the Democracy of Centre county solemnly pledge their best efforts. As a political organization we recognize and affirm the right of the delegates of the party in National Convention assembled to declare the principles and define the policies of the party on national issues, and these declarations we accept as the doctrines of the party, and as such, binding upon its members and organization, until modified or reaffirmed by a subsequent National Convention.

In so far as the coming election involves the choice of members of congress, and to that extent, on all questions of national policy, we recognize and affirm the right of members of the Democratic party to settle those questions for themselves in their respective congressional districts.

In the choice of a governor and the coordinating officers of the State in the coming election, no national policies are at stake. The supreme issues are the redemption of our State from the domina-

Continued on page 5.

OPPOSED TO CONQUEST.

William J. Bryan's First Public Utterance on the War.

NATIONAL HONOR UPHELD

Declares That Our Government Only Took Up Arms When Compelled to Choose Between War and Servile Acquiescence in Barbarous Cruelties.

The Nebraska building at the Omaha exposition was dedicated Tuesday. Among the speakers was William J. Bryan, whose oration was his first public declaration of the war issue. He said:

"War is harsh; it is attended by hardship and suffering; it means a vast expenditure of men and money. We may well pray for the coming of the time, promised in holy writ, when the spears shall be beaten into pruning hooks and the swords into plow shares; but universal peace cannot come until justice is enthroned throughout the world. Jehovah deals with nations as he deals with men, and for both decrees that the wages of sin is death. Until the right has triumphed in every land and love reigns in every heart, governments must, as a last resort, appeal to force. As long as the oppressor is deaf to the voice of reason so long must the citizen accustom his shoulder to the musket and his hand to the saber.

"Our Nation exhausted diplomacy in its efforts to secure a peaceable solution of the Cuban question, and only took up arms when it was compelled to choose between war and servile acquiescence in cruelties which would have been a disgrace to barbarism.

"History will vindicate the position taken by the United States in the war with Spain. In saying this I assume that the principles which were invoked in the inauguration of the war will be observed in its prosecution and conclusion. If a contest undertaken for the sake of humanity degenerates into a war of conquest, we shall find it difficult to meet the charge of having added hypocrisy to greed. Is our National character so weak that we cannot withstand the temptation to appropriate the first peace of land that comes within our reach?

"To inflict upon the enemy all possible harm is legitimate warfare, but shall we contemplate a scheme for the colonization of the Orient merely because our fleet won a remarkable victory in the harbor of Manila?

"Our guns destroyed a Spanish fleet, but can they destroy that self-evident truth, that governments derive their just powers—not from superior force—but from the consent of the governed?

"Shall we abandon a just resistance to European encroachment upon the Western hemisphere in order to mingle in the controversies of Europe and Asia?

"Nebraska, standing midway between the oceans, will contribute her full share toward the protection of our seacoast, and when the war clouds clear away her voice will be heard pleading for the maintenance of those ideas which inspired the founders of our Government and gave the Nation its proud eminence among the nations of the earth."

"If others turn to thoughts of aggrandizement and yield allegiance to those who clothe land-covetousness in the attractive garb of 'National destiny,' the people of Nebraska will, if I mistake not, their sentiments, plant themselves upon the disclaimer entered by Congress and expect good faith shall characterize the making of peace as it did at the beginning of the war. Goldsmith calls upon statesmen:

"To judge how wide the limits stand, Betwixt a splendid and a happy land."

"If some dream of the splendors of a heterogeneous empire encircling the globe, we shall be content to aid in bringing enduring happiness to a homogeneous people, consecrated to the purpose of maintaining 'a government of the people, by the people and for the people.'"

Death at Zion.

Mrs. Betsy Lesh died at her home in Zion on Tuesday night, 7th, with cancer of the stomach. She had been suffering more or less for the past year. Deceased was the widow of the late Thomas Lesh, Esq., who died several years ago.

Her maiden name was Betsy Shaffer and she was a native of Elk county. They had no children. Surviving her are her brothers Adam, of Peotone, Ill.; John and Jacob, at Zion; and Michael, of Centre Hall. Her funeral took place from the Zion Reformed church Friday morning. Rev. Miles O. Noll, of Carlisle, officiated.

Died.

In Union township, on June 8th, 1898, Mrs. Elizabeth Tolbert, widow of Hiram Tolbert, deceased; aged 13 years, 4 months and 16 days.

MONUMENT AT OLD FORT.

A Tablet Erected to Mark the Location of a Historic Spot.

Bellefonte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution on Thursday last erected a beautiful monument, weighing 5000 pounds, at the Old Fort in Penn's Valley, for the purpose of perpetuating the true location of the Indian fort built about the year 1777, now known as Potter's Fort.

This monument stands at the intersection of the Kishacoquillas Turnpike, with the Bellefonte and Aaronsburg road a short distance in front of the Old Fort Hotel. The monument is an artistic piece of Mills granite, about four feet in height and three feet square. Upon the polished face of the monument, fronting the fort, there is this inscription:—

"Erected June 9, 1898, Bellefonte Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, to mark the location of the old Indian Fort, known in 1777 as Potter's Fort, which stood 650 feet north of this marker."

When it was planted, at 5 p. m., the ladies sang the "Red, White and Blue," and the "Star Spangled Banner," a handsome bouquet, presented by Mrs. Fred Kurtz, was then placed on the top of the maker, when an appropriate prayer was offered by Rev. Christine, which closed the interesting ceremony, and all proceeded to the Old Fort Hotel dining room and partook of an elegant chicken and waffle banquet prepared for the occasion.

The Chapter, before leaving, in a body, with the invited guests, proceeded to the historic spring, and all partook of a refreshing drink of its sparkling water. The following is a list of those present from Bellefonte Chapter:—

Mrs. A. O. Furst, regent, Mrs. Frank McCoy, Mrs. Ellis L. Orvis, Mrs. George L. Potter, Mrs. Ella H. Gephart, Mrs. E. C. Atwood, Misses Mary Thomas, Anna Shaffner, Eleanor Mitchell, Caroline Orvis, May Crider, Jane W. Furst, Mrs. J. F. Alexander, Mrs. Elizabeth Harris McClure, of Valley Forge Chapter and Miss Lucy Potter. Also the following gentlemen:—Geo. L. Potter, Frank McCoy, Hon. A. O. Furst, Rev. F. F. Christine, John I. Potter, Fred Kurtz, James H. Potter, and J. F. Alexander.

The actual site of Potter's Fort was known, only by tradition, to a few at this day, there never having been a record of its location in county or state archives, a singular neglect. The Fort site was 650 feet north of the Old Fort Hotel, on an elevation, that an approach of Indians, on murder and rapine bent, might be watched. During an incursion of the red man, which was frequent, the settlers left their homes and found a refuge in the large stockade fort in the centre of which was a roomy house; what little live stock they had was also driven hither. The spring which furnished the water supply for the Fort, is about 12 rods to the east. An enclosed passage led from the Fort to this spring to prevent the Indians from cutting off the water supply.

FROM CHICKAMAUGA.

CAMP GEORGE H. THOMAS, CHICKAMAUGA PARK, LYTTLE, GA., June 13, 1898.

Editor Kurtz.—Your correspondent is unable to write you a detailed letter for publication this week, having been on a tour of guard duty on Saturday and on Sunday forenoon, and had intended to give your readers a full account of camp doings the past week, but about twelve o'clock Sunday, and while Governor Hastings was in our company street, a big rain storm came up and the writer was compelled to leave his tent as about five inches of water was flowing through it. After getting things in shape again, another storm came on, at about four o'clock and the same experience was repeated, which kept up until eight o'clock. The whole camp suffered more or less, but the worst sufferers were regimental headquarters, companies "A," "B," "C," "D," "E"; and the worst sufferers in our company were Capt. Taylor, Lieutenants Jackson and Taylor, also tent of Sergt. Alexander, privates Barnes, Miller, Hazel, Rothrock, Ertel, Sando, Osmer and Noll and Sergt. Gettig. Some of the boys had cots and slept above the water, while those who had no cots were taken in by the other boys who fared better in the storm, so that everybody had a dry bed. The writer moved in with Sergt. Garis. The other tents were on higher ground and their tents kept dry. The camp will soon be gotten in shape again, this Monday morning. In my letter next week I will give a full account of the past week, together with an account of the commissary, cooking, etc.

S. D. GETTIG.

Married.

On June 14th, 1898, at Snow Shoe Intersection, by Rev. J. Zeigler, Mr. Edward M. Burd to Miss Edith Confer, both of Boggs township, Centre county, Pa.