



HOSTILE FLEETS WILL SOON MEET

The Curtain About to Rise Upon the Most Thrilling Act in the War Drama—A naval Engagement in Prospect—News Expected Within Twenty-Four Hours.

Washington, May 20.—All of the news that was given out today at the navy department was comprised in the one short bulletin posted at the close of the day stating that the department had information, believed to be authentic, that Admiral Cervera, with his Spanish flying squadron, was at Santiago de Cuba. This went to confirm the newspaper reports and also the Madrid cablegram published this morning, the latter a rather unusual circumstance, for the Spanish bulletins have been notably deceptive ever since the flying squadron left Cadix. Accepting this statement as correct it indicates that there is little probability of a hostile meeting between Sampson or Schley and Cervera immediately.

Looking over the charts of Santiago harbor, the experts soon discovered that the place would be a veritable rat trap for the Spaniards with its narrow entrance in which a single American monitor could bottle up the whole Spanish fleet.

The naval strategy board, re-christened of late the war board, is to lose one of its most active and valuable members in the person of Captain Barker. He leaves Washington tomorrow for Hampton Roads to take command of the fine protected cruiser Nowara. This has just been extensively reviewed at the Norfolk navy yard. It is expected that the Newark will join Sampson's squadron in the West Indies as soon as she can get there.

Preparations go on steadily for the Philippines military expedition. General Merritt, who will command, stopped in Washington this morning on his way westward from New York, and spent most of the day in consultation with the officials of the department arranging the details of the expedition.

Another transport was secured today and the department is showing a disposition to treat General Merritt with the utmost liberality in the equipment of his forces. It is expected that the advance guard on one vessel under the command of General Otis will sail out of the Golden Gate tomorrow, bound for the Philippines.

The complaints of the shoeless among the volunteers just brought into the army will soon be silenced as the department has just placed orders for 250,000 pairs of soldiers' shoes.

Officials here dismiss as pure invention the story coming from Montreal that former Minister Polo has succeeded in securing for Spain as a coaling station one of the French Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, off the Newfoundland coast. At the French embassy the report is treated with indignant contempt, as the French decree of neutrality is binding on the French governor of those islands and effectually prevents the granting of such exceptional privileges as coaling stations.

DUN'S REVIEW OF TRADE.

The Industries of the Nation Move Right Along in Spite of the War.

New York, May 20.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade will say tomorrow:

Growing accustomed to war possibilities, which are mostly far from possibilities of evil, and finding the nation moving along steadily in its industries, people are grasping the idea that it is throwing away some months of active and profitable life to wait until war clouds have passed.

Several large contracts kept back for some weeks because of hostilities have now been placed, and instead of works closing or reducing force, returns show the starting of some works long idle and increase of force or of hours at others. Government work occupies many establishments, but it counts for little compared with other demands.

The key of the situation is the prosperity of the west, which altogether unprecedented marketing of breadstuffs has caused, with the prospect of good crops to come. These prospects with advances in grain and cattle, have produced a demand for rails, cars, car material, fencing, agricultural implements, boots and shoes, and all textile goods, which was not anticipated from eastern indications.

In iron, notwithstanding the greatest output ever known, the demand has caused some advance in Bessemer pig, with only a slight decline in the price of gray iron at Pittsburgh but full quotations are obtained at Chicago and Philadelphia. In bars and sheets the markets are dull, but at the west are strongly sustained by demands for car building, tin plate manufacture, and other uses. In plates and structural forms all the works are fully employed, and generally crowded for months ahead. One contract for six thousand tons armor plate for Great Britain have

been taken by works for inland, with another of smaller quantity, showing that the export demand, in spite of higher ocean freights, is not yet arrested.

The textile works are doing rather better, even the cotton mills in spite of their over-production. Numerous woolen mills have been pushed to new activity by government orders, and prices for a few grades of goods are better, with a stronger tone in the market generally.

Failures for the week have been 250 in the United States against 213 last year, and 29 in Canada against 37 last year.

CHARGED WITH AWFUL CRIME.

Mrs. Mary E. Zellner is Accused of Having Murdered Her Husband.

Philadelphia, May 20.—Mrs. Mary E. Zellner was committed to prison today by Coroner Ashbridge to await the action of the grand jury, on the charge of having caused the death of her aged and wealthy husband by administering poison to him.

The couple were married in 1896, and lived until the time of the husband's death at 512 North Eleventh street. The husband, Reuben Zellner, owned considerable real estate in this city and was considered quite wealthy.

The honeymoon was brief, frequent quarrels occurring on account of the young wife's non-attention to her husband. The culmination of the unhappy marriage came early in April, when the husband died under peculiar circumstances.

The coroner was notified by the police officials and immediately began an investigation, the widow in the meantime being placed under police surveillance.

After working on the case for nearly a month the police officials considered they had enough evidence to warrant the arrest of the widow and she was taken into custody.

The hearing was set for today, detectives in the meantime weaving the web closer about the prisoner.

The testimony adduced today was to the effect that Mrs. Zellner had on numerous occasions sent her servants to purchase strychnin, laudanum and jujub, saying that she wanted the poison "to kill a cat." It also developed that the woman had said to different persons that she wanted "to get rid of the old crank."

It was shown that Mrs. Zellner had been deceiving her husband for a long time, and frequently held clandestine meetings with a man named James J. Murphy.

Mrs. Zellner told the police officials that she had been suffering from physical ailments on the night her husband died, but this statement was denied by a doctor when he appeared before the coroner.

The coroner's physician testified to the amount of strychnin in Zellner's stomach, viscera, liver and brain.

TROOPS FOR RELIEF OF ADMIRAL DEWEY

The Soldiers Will Leave San Francisco Today.

A LARGE FORCE OF REGULARS AND THE FIRST CALIFORNIAN VOLUNTEERS—THE CRUISER CHALESTON MAY START AGAIN TODAY—THE ACCIDENT TO HER CONDENSERS NOT SO SERIOUS AS ANTICIPATED, CAPTAIN GLASS DENIES THE REPORT THAT IT WAS CAUSED BY ONE OF THE CREW.

Washington, May 20.—The War department has received word that the steamships City of Sydney and City of Peking will leave San Francisco tomorrow with the first detachment of troops for the Philippines. The expedition is to consist of the Fourteenth United States infantry, the Third artillery and the First regiment of California volunteers.

The Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments of the United States infantry have been ordered from New Orleans to San Francisco as part of the Philippine expedition. That will bring General Merritt's regular force up to about 4,000 men.

The Oceanic line steamship Zelandia will be the next transport to leave.

Washington, May 20.—Major General Wesley Merritt, who is to command the expedition to the Philippines, accompanied by several members of his staff, reported at the War department this morning and was in consultation with Secretary Alger and the regular army officials concerning his future work.

Later in the day he will have a talk with the president and will receive instructions for his guidance in the delicate and important duties assigned to him. General Merritt will leave here probably tomorrow for San Francisco, stopping en route a day or more at Chicago. He is yet uncertain as to the precise date on which he will sail for the Philippines, but it is now evident that he will not be able to depart with the first ship that goes to Manila.

General Merritt expects that he will have an ample force of men to establish the mission on which he is sent. Between 15,000 and 17,000 troops he thinks will be allotted him. Of this number he confidently hopes there may be approximately 5,000 soldiers of the regular army, because of their thorough discipline and usage to actual military life are regarded as absolutely essential to the successful completion of the work in hand.

There is ample evidence already that the authorities are disposed to meet General Merritt's views. This is shown by the orders issued yesterday which directed the Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments of infantry now stationed in the south, to proceed at once to San Francisco for duty with the expedition. The Tenth regiment of Pennsylvania volunteers, who are regarded here as the best material in the volunteer or line, also has been ordered to the Philippines.

William Howell, of New York, who was private secretary to former Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt at Manila, and later had been connected with the strategy board, has been appointed private secretary to General Merritt, and will accompany him to the Philippines.

ACCIDENT NOT SERIOUS. Valpojo, Cal., May 20.—A gang of machinists from the Mare Island navy yard is working day and night on the condenser tubes of the Charleston, and as the defects proved on closer investigation to be much less serious than were anticipated before her return to the yard. It is very probable that she will start a fresh on her long run to the Philippines today.

The return of the cruiser occasioned considerable comment here, and ridiculous rumors were circulated as to the cause of her having put back. The cause was, that although a test had been made in the yard before the Charleston sailed, some of the tubes, owing to defects in the material of which they were constructed, were unable to stand the extra strain entailed

by the run to Red Rock and the subsequent maneuvering while swinging for the purpose of adjusting compasses, and sprung leaks. At the time the defects were discovered their extent could not be ascertained, for the reason that there are 2,943 tubes in the two condensers, and the exact location of the leak necessitated the taking apart of the whole combination.

The gossip to the effect that the damage to the Charleston was the result of design, and that a member of the crew was suspected, is denounced by Captain Glass as absolutely unfounded.

San Francisco, May 20.—In a few days, if everything goes well, the First regiment of United States California volunteer infantry will be on its way to Manila. Orders from Washington are to the effect that the men must start by Saturday. The work of loading the City of Peking, which is to transport the troops, is being rushed, but she cannot possibly sail before Saturday.

In addition to the three train loads of troops from Nebraska which have reached the city, thirteen more heavily loaded specials, containing the remainder of the Nebraska soldiers, a regiment each from Minnesota, Kansas and Colorado, and a battalion from Wyoming, are on the way here from Oregon. There is a scarcity of cars on the Southern Pacific, but the company is doing all in its power to get the Eastern troops here as soon as possible.

Neither of the steamships City of Sydney nor Australia has received any supplies yet for the trip to Manila. Carpenters are putting up bunks and other temporary structures for the transportation of troops.

WAR REVENUE BILL

The Reading Completed at Conclusion of Yesterday's Session in the Senate.

Washington, May 20.—At the conclusion of today's session of the senate the reading of the war revenue measure had been completed. About seven eighths of the amendments proposed by the senate have been agreed to. Those remaining are, quite naturally, the most important in the bill and will provoke a deal of discussion.

The present amendments relating to the regular army, because of their thoroughness and usage to actual military life are regarded as absolutely essential to the successful completion of the work in hand.

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SPAIN'S CABINET.

The Members Make Their First Appearance Before the Senate in Full New Uniforms.

Madrid, May 20.—The ministers, in full uniform, appeared in the senate today.

The premier, Senor Sagasta, explained the ministerial crisis and asserted that the new ministry will continue the policy of the former ministry. He related how "Spain did everything to avoid war until America, violating all recognized diplomacy, attacked Spain with an injustice unprecedented in the annals of civilized history, and compelled Spain to respond with war to war, which Spain would continue to the utmost until an honorable peace is obtainable."

This, the premier continued, "is a strong policy, and the new government will also energetically conduct negotiations with European and other states."

Senor Penarrubia proposed the senate's congratulations to Admiral Cervera on his arriving safely at Santiago de Cuba, "and cleverly dodging the American squadrons."

Captain Anon, the minister of marine, responded in the name of the senate, and congratulated Admiral Cervera. The congratulations were voted unanimously.

A Spanish official version of the engagement said to have taken place off Santiago de Cuba yesterday, previous to the arrival of the Spanish fleet, says that American warships were repaired and adds that one of them was damaged.

SENOR SAGASTA'S SPEECH. In the chamber Senor Sagasta repeated his speech before the senate.

Senor Silveira, leader of the Dissident Conservatives, replied that his section of the Conservative party approved the policy announced by Senor Sagasta and would support the new cabinet.

Senor Romero y Robledo, leader of the Whistling faction, presented an indignant protest, maintaining that the government was in a crisis from the declaration of war, and that if the present were a continuation of the policy of the old cabinet, then this cabinet also was in a crisis.

Senor Sagasta explained that the cabinet changes were due to the fact that several ministers were "ill and extremely fatigued after the recent anxieties." He said the cabinet found itself confronted with war or dishonor and accepted the former, adding solemnly "the Spanish government will never accept dishonor or territorial integrity of Spain is not maintained, and otherwise Spain is determined to fight. (Loud cheers.)"

Professor Salmeron made a speech vigorously attacking the cabinet. In presenting the ministers to the chamber, Senor Sagasta said that the appointment of a minister of foreign affairs had been postponed because Leon y Castillo had not accepted the portfolio, "detained in Paris by very important negotiations which may lead to fresh developments in the present international situation."

At 11 p. m.—The government, it is said, has received a dispatch from Havana "announcing that the rebels have pronounced in favor of Spain and are now making common cause with the Spaniards to defeat America."

COOL UNDER DOOM OF DEATH.

Young Dennis, the Negro Murderer, Simply Asks a Chew.

Snow Hill, Md., May 20.—Somerset Dennis, the 17-year-old colored youth who shot his step-father, America Holland, near Pocomoke City, on January 21, has been convicted of murder in the first degree. The jury was out thirty-three minutes.

When Dennis was being taken back to the jail the first remark he made after hearing the verdict was to ask the sheriff for a chew of tobacco.

MISDEAMORS AT CHICKAMAUGA.

Columbus, Ga., May 20.—A special to the Dispatch from Chickamauga Park says three men were caught and arrested there charged with doping the wells and water troughs. Two miles are reported dead. Three pounds of arsenic were found on the men.

EIGHTHARDT-MAHONEY.

Philadelphia, May 20.—"Jack" Everhardt, of New Orleans, and "Jack" Mahoney, of this city, fought six rounds at the Arena tonight. The bout was featureless and without any interest whatever. Neither man gave or received any punishment.

KANSAS CITY CUP.

Kansas City, May 20.—The Kansas City Star cup, representing the wing shot championship of America, was won in the Missouri shooting tournament today by Charles Todd, of Des Moines, Ia., he killing forty straight birds.

ISAAC PAYLOR HANGED.

Richmond, Va., May 20.—Isaac Paylor, a negro, was hanged today at Boydston, Mecklenburg county, for the murder of his wife in January last.

TORNADO STORY DENIED.

Minneapolis, Wis., May 20.—A special from Wausau, Wis., says there appears to be no foundation to the report from Elmhurst of the loss of ten lives during the tornado on Wednesday night.

MAY BOTTLE UP THE SPANIARDS

If the Cape Verde Squadron Remains in the Harbor at Santiago de Cuba Until the Arrival of the American Fleet, Cervera's Ships Will Be in a Trap—Gen. Merritt's Preparation—That French Coaling Station Yarn.

New York, May 20.—A Key West special to the Evening Post says: Events of surpassing interest are expected to develop near here within twenty-four hours. Details of the important movements projected are not permitted to pass the censor.

The Terror at Fort de France.

St. Pierre, Martinique, May 20, 6 p. m.—The Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Terror and the hospital ship Alicante are still at Fort de France. There has been no change in the situation this afternoon.

Gomez Marches to Havana.

New York, May 20.—A copyrighted special from Port-au-Prince to the Evening World says that information has reached that place that General Gomez, at the head of an army of 15,000 insurgents, is closing in on Havana.

His advance guard led by Quenten Bandera, the dispatch says, had a skirmish with and put to flight 800 Spaniards. Santiago de Cuba, according to the same report, is menaced by 5,000 insurgents under General Calixto Garcia. The dispatch also reports that Spanish warships have been sighted off Yucatan, conveying three transports carrying troops and provisions for Havana.

Key West, May 20.—The prologue has been spoken, and the curtain is about to rise on the first account of the drama. This is the unwavering opinion of the naval men here. Dewey's brilliant achievement at Manila is regarded as a separate episode. San Juan is already a memory; and the sporadic encounters along the Cuban coast are accepted as merely preliminary skirmishes, tentative rather than decisive. The meeting of two great hostile fleets is the pivot upon which the situation turns; and that a few days, perhaps hours, will bring them together is the universal view here at the base of operations.

This view is confirmed by the news that Admiral Cervera's squadron has reached Santiago de Cuba. The intelligence came today, and, if it did not affect the situation, it was a singular coincidence that the activity among our ships were perceptibly heightened and the work of coaling and provisioning those in the harbor was rushed with more than usual haste.

The ships were surreptitiously creeping toward the open sea as the day waned and the ranks of naval men ashore were constantly thinning until, at dusk, there was scarcely one to be seen. The newspaper dispatch boats have nearly all departed with particular care not to lose sight of the United States warships.

The centre of interest again shifts away from Key West; but whether is the question none can answer. Otherwise the day has been dull and empty of action. Some little stir was created by the discovery of a secret chamber in the hold of the Spanish prize steamer Argonauta containing fifteen cases of ammunition, over one hundred Mauser rifles and other war stores.

The discovery of the war supplies on board the Argonauta will not change the status of her case before the prize court as it had already been decided today, before learning of the find, that the steamer was legitimately a prize of war.

The barkentine Carlos F. Rossa, 750 tons, captured by the New York off Havana on Tuesday, was brought in here today by a petty officer and a prize crew. She has on board a cargo of garlic and jerked beef. The story of her capture has already been told.

KID WINS ANOTHER.

The Showing Made by Rublin Causes Much Surprise.

Syracuse, N. Y., May 20.—The fight here tonight between Kid McCoy and Gus Rublin, the latter of Cleveland, resulted in a victory for McCoy after twenty rounds.

Three thousand people were in the Alhambra, where the fight was held. There was little betting on the result and the showing made by Rublin was a surprise. He stood a lot of punishment and was always ready to come back for more. He was apparently strong at the finish. McCoy says that he will now meet Goddard and then Choyneki. There was a great difference in the weight of the men, McCoy, according to his statement, weighing 157 pounds, and Rublin, according to Billy Madden, his manager, tipping the scales at 130 pounds.

Sixty per cent. of the gate receipts are to be divided between the men, McCoy taking 75 per cent. of this and Rublin 25 per cent., in place of a \$2,500 purse.

George Siler, of Chicago, acted as referee. When he rendered his decision, Jim Corbett leaped into the ring and asked McCoy to fight him, but the latter declined to consider the matter and refused to make any arrangements.

As a certain rascal, Kid Broad and Jack Hamilton fought twelve rounds at catchweights. Broad got the decision.

DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS WAR. Sailed Across the Track of Spanish War Ships, but Saw None.

New York, May 20.—The Boston bark Freeman, of 1048 tons, arrived today from Manila, and, notwithstanding her course after leaving the Island of St. Helena lay right across the track of the Spanish fleet of warships, she escaped them all, while her master navigated his ship totally unconscious of the danger of seizure.

Captain Van Name was very much surprised to learn that war had been declared between the United States and Spain, for he sailed from Manila 129 days ago with a cargo of hemp.

Explosion at Carthagena. Carthagena, Spain, May 20.—An explosion has occurred at Carthagena. It is supposed to have taken place in a projectile factory. There is a report that several persons have been killed.

Later—it is now known that five soldiers and five workmen were killed outright and sixty-two persons severely injured, among them the governor of the port. The explosion was accidental.

Mail Damages Crops. Bridgeville, Del., May 20.—The recent hail storm did considerable damage to fruit and grain in some parts of Delaware and Queen Anne county, Maryland.

Business Houses Burned. Newmarket, Wis., May 20.—Twenty business houses, the best portion of the town, has been destroyed by fire. Loss, \$200,000; insurance small.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING

Weather Indications Today: Partly Cloudy; Probable Showers.

- 1 Telegraph—Hostile Fleets Will Soon Meet.
2 Market and Stock Reports, Base Ball News.
3 Local—Too Much Sugar and Butter, Prohibitions in Convention.
4 Editorial.
5 Comment of the Press.
6 Social and Personal.
7 One Woman's Views.
8 Local—Damage Done by Hain Storm.
9 Equity Suit About Tobacco.
10 Local—Result of a Collision.
11 Relief Appeal Has Been Issued.
12 Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
13 Lackawanna County News.
14 Spain in the Philippines.
15 Memorabilia Sayings of Naval Heroes.
16 Sunday School Lessons for Tomorrow.
17 Telegram—State Troops Are Not for Manila.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Washington, May 20.—Forecast for Saturday: For eastern Pennsylvania, partly cloudy weather and probably showers southwest; city windy. For western Pennsylvania, partly cloudy weather; probably showers; light southeasterly wind.

SUMMARY OF THE DAY'S DEVELOPMENTS.

Senor Polo y Bernabe leaves Montreal. Sagasta's cabinet appears before the senate in full uniform. City of Peking will sail for Manila with 1,000 men this evening. Spanish torpedo boat destroyer, the Terror, is at Fort de France. It is announced that 104,000 volunteers have been mustered into the army. General Gomez said to be marching on Havana with an army of 15,000 men. The naval department announces that the Spanish fleet is at Santiago de Cuba. Bethlehem Iron company ships two Harveyized turret plates for the Kearsarge. Several persons killed in an explosion in a Spanish projectile factory at Carthagena. Madrid despatch at midnight states that Spanish squadron has left Santiago de Cuba. Three men arrested at Chickamauga on charge of poisoning water used by army mules. Key West special to the Evening Post says that events of surpassing interest will develop within 24 hours.