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### SPAIN'S PEACE PLANS.

Premier Sagasta Says Negotiations Have Been Begun.

**STATEMENT BY SENOR GOMAZA.**

The Minister of Public Instruction in the Spanish Cabinet says the Government's policy is to "conclude an honorable peace."

Madrid, July 23.—The minister of public instruction, Senor Gomaza, in authority for the statement that peace, honorable to the Spanish army, will shortly be concluded. In an interview in the Correspondencia Militar, organ of the army, Senor Gomaza is quoted as saying:

"The suspension of constitutional liberty cannot be agreeable to the press, because it abrogates freedom and prevents the publication of news which costs much. But at this moment what can the government do but check the hostile campaigns waged against it? I was the first to beg the cabinet to treat the question as urgent, and I do not regret my action. I will say from my seat in parliament that I am convinced I did a real service to my country.

"At the same time I can give you news which will please the press. The suspension of the constitution will not last long, for several reasons. One of them is the calmness displayed by the people and the army. It is not for me to conceal the intentions of the government, which are to conclude an honorable peace which will, in the first place, satisfy the aspirations of the army. After that, if Senor Sagasta should think it fit, he will ask the queen regent if she still has confidence in her present advisers."

Senor Sagasta told a representative of the Imparcial yesterday that the government had already entered upon the preliminary stage of peace negotiations.

General Polavieja has arrived and will have an audience with the queen regent this afternoon.

The arrival of General Polavieja has increased the persistence of a cabinet crisis. The queen regent is credited with exclaiming "Thank God!" when she knew he was coming. Opinions differ as to whether a semi-military cabinet would make for peace or for continuance of the war, but all are agreed that it would at any rate put an end to the present vacillating policy. Certainly considerable confidence is felt in General Polavieja, in the present difficult juncture. The belief is current in Madrid that the delay in Commodore Vane's departure is due to a desire to give General Polavieja time to form a cabinet and to sue for peace.

The directors of the leading newspapers waited upon Senor Sagasta, the premier, late yesterday afternoon and urged him to abolish the existing state of affairs and resign.

According to a dispatch from Hong Kong, the insurgents attacked Manila, but were repulsed with a loss of 500, the Spaniards having 50 killed and wounded. A second attack was equally unsuccessful.

A dispatch from San Juan de Puerto Rico says a new military cabinet has been formed under the presidency of Senor Nolas Rivera.

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THE NEXT PORTO RICO EXPEDITION.

Newport News, Va., July 23.—A section of almost 5,000 troops will sail for Porto Rico on Monday next from Newport News. They will go on the auxiliary cruiser St. Paul and St. Louis and the transports Massachusetts, Roumania and city of Washington. The five ships have a carrying capacity of 5,000 troops and 1,500 horses. Nearly the full capacity of the vessels will be tested by the men, who will comprise General Haines' brigade from Chickamauga and several batteries of artillery. It is expected that about 1,000 horses will be taken, 700 of that number being artillery horses.

Two More Spanish Prizes.

Charleston, S. C., July 23.—Two prizes were brought into Charleston harbor yesterday. The Olinda Rodriguez, of Havre, came in from San Juan. The Frenchman was making a second attempt at running the blockade on Sunday last at San Juan and was hauled up by a shot from the New Orleans. The Olinda Rodriguez has a crew of 10 and 24 passengers; the latter chiefly negroes, who embarked at Puerto Plata for France. The vessel carried a cargo of provisions and a number of passengers.

Bob Moore of Lafayette, Ind., says that for constipation he has found DeWitt's Little Early Risers to be perfect. They never gripe. Try them for stomach and liver troubles. C. H. Hagenbuch.

Aguiñaldo's Absurd Proclamation.

Hong Kong, July 23.—The latest mail from Manila reports that the rebels have lately suffered several reverses and have lost territory south of Manila. General Aguiñaldo has issued an absurd proclamation dealing chiefly with official insignia. He, as president of the Philippine ministry, is to wear a gold collar, with a gold triangular pendant, and to carry a gold whistle as well as a stick with a gold handle and a tassel of gold. The badges of innumerable other officials are minutely dealt with in the proclamation.

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### WARRIORS' REPORTS.

Aguiñaldo Has Declared a Dictatorship in the Philippines.

HOBSON BRINGS IN A REPORT.

The Hero of the Meritame Enthusiastically Greets at the Nation's Capital—Success of the Nipe Expedition.

General Miles—"Moving Along Well."

Washington, July 23.—There were several events of interest if not of importance at the war and navy departments yesterday. General Anderson, at Cavite, sent a message saying that Aguiñaldo had declared a dictatorship and martial law over the Philippines, something that gave the cabinet food for consideration at their regular meeting. There was no disposition to force any issue with the insurgent chief at this time, but it is pretty well understood that it will not be allowed to commit the United States government in the future treatment of the Philippines.

The visit of the German ambassador to the president and to the secretary of state was a basis for a belief that had failed to make any representation on the subject, and that had been well on the question of peace as affected by the program laid down by Watson's projected voyage to European waters. If so no official confirmation was obtained, and a "friendly visit" was the only explanation of his visit.

It would not be surprising if it should develop that strong European influences are being brought to bear to dissuade the navy department from dispatching Watson's fleet to Europe. But so far they appear to have been ineffectual. For it is officially stated that the departure of the squadron is only delayed, not abandoned.

The most agreeable event of the day was the arrival at the navy department of Lieutenant Hobson, the hero of the Meritame. The officials were not informed of his approaching visit except through the newspapers. Consequently when he reached the railway station at 2:35 o'clock in the afternoon there was no official there to meet him, and his reception was truly democratic. He succeeded in securing observation as he passed through the train, took an umbrella in hand, followed by a portly person carrying his bag, but before he emerged from the station some one seized him, a heavy man in a blue coat, and in a moment the station was surrounded by a shouting crowd. The cry of "Hobson!" rang out, and the crowd closed about him, shaking his hand and putting him about until he was rescued by the police and escorted to a carriage. He stopped long enough to announce that all of the men who formed the crew of the Meritame were safe and in the best of health.

The officer was driven at once to the army and navy club and, after brushing himself up, he drove over to the navy department. As he approached the office of the secretary of the navy there was another demonstration. A large crowd had gathered about the doorway, and the hearty welcome it gave the young officer brought hubbub to his cheeks. Secretary Long came out of his private office and grasping Hobson with both hands said with sincere affection, "Hobson, I am glad, very glad, to see you. They drew him into his office, where the lieutenant was introduced to Assistant Secretary Allen and was greeted by Captain Crowder, Captain Bradford, and Pension Commissioner Evans, who happened to drop in. He spent half an hour in conference with the secretary and then returned to the club.

Secretary Long stated that Hobson did not bring the long expected report from Admiral Sampson and his brother officers on the destruction of the Albatross. The report, however, he said, was not so important as the work on the Cristobal Colon. "When this duty is completed," Admiral Sampson's order reads, "you will ask for orders from the secretary of the navy. Otherwise you will remain on duty on board the New York."

About 5:30 o'clock Lieutenant Hobson went to the White House to pay his respects to the president. Secretary Long accompanied him. The president gave Lieutenant Hobson a most cordial greeting and then turned the subject for what he regarded as one of the most conspicuous acts of gallantry in the history of naval warfare.

Lieutenant Hobson returned to New York last night to confer with working companies' agents. In a few days he is expected to return to the island from Santhago. It is supposed to establish a base there which will save at least two days time in getting supplies into Cuba as compared with the Santiago route. It will also form a good point of operations against Holguin, not far distant, and it should be considered, unfortunately, that a restraining hand must be laid upon the Cubans themselves. In connection with Santiago would be an effective means of doing this. The war department has not yet decided to make the island a base for the Cuban allies here quit the American lines, but it is severely doubted that such is the case. For the friction has been growing more pronounced every day since the fall of Santiago, and it is feared that a severance of relations cannot be long avoided. That the Cuban junta is still hopeful of avoiding such a measure is evidenced by the confidence shown by Senor Guzman, one of the Cuban legation here, in an available settlement.

Although General Miles reported by cable yesterday from the St. Nicholas Bay that he was "moving along well" with the first detachment of the military expedition against Porto Rico, the body of the dispatch proceeding this statement gave rise at first to the apprehension that, like General Stauffer's statement from the island, was threatened with a costly delay in landing his expedition on Porto Rico, and owing to the absence of lighters and tugs. It was said at the war department later on that some of these lighters were already on their way from New Orleans and New York.

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### "NO DEATHS TODAY."

The Brief and Cheering Dispatch Sent by General Staffer to Adjutant General Corbin.

Washington, July 23.—At 11:30 o'clock last night Adjutant General Corbin received a dispatch from General Staffer reporting that there has been "no deaths today."

The dispatch contained only the three words "no deaths today," but it was freighted with alluring promises to the rear officer, who had sent a similar dispatch along the communication with "no deaths today" in the morning, but the dispatch was not received until 11:30. While these words were being read, the adjutant general was in a state of great excitement, and he was heard to say "no deaths today" in a loud voice.

The adjutant general is a young man, and he is a member of the adjutant general's staff. He is a member of the adjutant general's staff, and he is a member of the adjutant general's staff.

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