

VALDEZ DRIVES MACEO BACK

Pitched Battle Fought in Which the Insurgents Are Incontinentally Routed.

SPANISH LOSS IS RIDICULOUSLY SMALL

Poor Marksmanship of the Rebels Responsible for Injunctively Enjoyed by the King's Troops, Who Crossed a Field Under Fire.

HAVANA, Dec. 5.—(New York World Telegram-Special Telegram.)—The Spanish column under General Suarez Valdez met Antonio Maceo December 2 at La Reforma, a cattle estate in Puerto Principe province, about twenty miles from the eastern border of Santa Clara province. Maceo had united forces with Gomez December 1. With him were the officers of the newly formed Cuban republic. The total insurgent force is estimated at 4,000, including 240 cavalry. General Valdez had the Valladolid and Cuban battalions about twenty cavalrymen, and a section of light artillery.

Gomez adopted his usual tactics. He threw out a skirmish line, and firing continued for some time, General Valdez advancing until he occupied the camp used by the rebels the previous night. General Valdez followed the retreating rebels, and was joined between Jicotea and Rio Grande by a column 3,000 strong under General Aldecoa, who continued the pursuit.

General Valdez, in his dispatch to General Canales, states the conduct of Lieutenants Churchill and Barnes of the British army, who were with him.

Gomez and Maceo moved in the direction of Mount Quayas. The Spanish loss was ridiculously small. The rebel loss is unknown. Jose Millan was among the killed.

BRAVE STAND OF FORAGERS.

The most remarkable fight of the war took place December 1 at the sugar estate, Tranquilidad, three miles from Manzanillo, in Santiago province. Twenty-eight mounted infantry of the Second battalion of Isabella I. of Castile regiment, under First Lieutenant Garcia Sotillo, were ordered to accompany a large body of mounted insurgents, who summoned them to surrender. The Spaniards replied by firing and their comrades came to their rescue. Then there was a fight, in which the little band displayed traditional Spanish courage. A wire fence in the rear prevented retreat. Lieutenant Aguilar formed his men in a semi-circle. The rebels charged in front and on both flanks. Maceo's men were used, and three soldiers were taken prisoners. The soldiers fought like tigers, reached a plantation, secured ammunition and returned safely to their homes.

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SULTAN PLAYS A DEEP GAME

Using All His Arts to Break the Accord of the Powers.

MANY IRRITATING RUMORS CIRCULATED

Agents of the Porte Bustly Engaged in an Effort to Rupture the Present Agreement Existing Between the Powers.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 4.—(Via Sofia, Bulgaria, Dec. 5.)—During the past twenty-four hours there have been frequent cabinet councils at the palace and several exchanges of communications with the representatives of the powers, but no decision seems to have been arrived at by the Porte on the subject of the firmans demanded by the powers for the passage of extra guardships through the Dardanelles. The sultan's policy of delay is generally believed. "It was upon Germany's advice," says the dispatch, "that the porte opened negotiations for the submission of the firmans to the powers, which, however, proved fruitless."

RUSSIA'S FLEET IS ALWAYS READY. Seven Battleships Ready to Sail Through the Bosphorus. BERLIN, Dec. 5.—The Cologne Gazette today announced that a Russian squadron of seven battleships and nine torpedo boats is anchored off Sebastopol under orders to hold it in readiness to sail at twenty-four hours' notice. It is said that the orders for assembling the squadron were issued only a few days ago, when Russia assumed that Great Britain might attempt to send war vessels through the Dardanelles without the consent of the powers.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—Referring to the sensational statement of the Cologne Gazette regarding the assembling of a Russian squadron in the Black Sea, it is stated here that the Russian Black sea fleet has been under orders to be prepared for active service at any moment, and that, in addition, there is nothing new in the situation.

Moreover, it is pointed out, a full understanding has been established between the powers in regard to the situation in Turkey, and that no possibility of any one power taking independent action.

Terrible Gale in British Channel. QUEENSTOWN, Dec. 5.—A terrible gale is raging in the English channel today and the White Star steamer Germania, which arrived this morning from New York, was obliged to land her passengers and mails. The departure of the White Star liner Majestic for New York is delayed owing to the lateness of the night.

German Papers Censorious. LONDON, Dec. 5.—The Times today, in its editorial of the Times telegraphs to that paper a suggestion that Germany's anxiety to secure control of Samoa may stimulate her desire to avoid a tariff war with America. The correspondent writes that the German press is censorious in its attitude toward the American government.

National Gallery Gets a Contribution. LONDON, Dec. 5.—The distinguished artist, G. F. Watts, R. A., has made a gift to the National Gallery of portraits of Matthew Arnold, Robert Browning, Thomas Carlyle, Sir John Lubbock, and other distinguished men.

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Steamer Short of Coal. HALIFAX, Dec. 5.—The steamer Huntcliffe, from Mobile for Liverpool, put in today at this port, and was short of coal. Gales and head winds have kept her back.

Americans Fighting For Cuba. MISSOURI Militia Officer and Two Hundred Men Join the Insurgents. ST. LOUIS, Dec. 5.—The mystery surrounding the disappearance November 18 of Captain Roemer, who was in command of the famous Bush Zouaves, has been solved. He is now in Cuba at the head of a band of 200 Americans, fighting for Cuban independence, and with him is Sergeant Frank Hillis, also a member of the Zouaves.

Bedouins Threaten Reprisals. All advice from Beirut, the seaport town of Mesopotamia, dated November 25, says that the Bedouin authorities there have made several arrests among the chiefs of the Bedouins, and a view to force the tribes to surrender to the British authorities. The British consul and vice consul, the Russian acting consul and the French consul are there on a special mission to hold the Bedouins during the coming pilgrimage season to Mecca.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The Turkish legation today received the following telegram from the Porte: "With the exception of the incidents of small importance that took place at Marsovan and Zetoun, perfect tranquility reigns at the vilayets of Diarbekir, Smyrna, Trebizond, Hedjaz, Constat, and the archipelago, Brussa, Bagdad, Van, Beyrout, Erzeroum, Castamouni, Adana, Mousoul, Yemen, Acre, Salonica, Adriaopole, Trebisond, and other places of the empire."

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JOHN H. GEAR IS RECOGNIZED

Iowa's Junior Senator Gets a Place on the Republican Steering Committee.

LEW MAY'S CHANCES GROW BRIGHTER

His Friends in Washington Making an Earnest Effort to Secure His Selection as United States Fish Commissioner.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—The appointment of Senator Gear of Iowa on the steering committee of the republicans to make up the list of committees and officers is regarded as an exceptional honor for so young a senator, although Mr. Gear has had long legislative experience. The personnel of the committee is decidedly interesting, looked at through presidential glasses. Mitchell and Teller are noncommittal on questions of party politics, and also Gear; Fritchard is for McKinley, Cullum is for Shelby M. Cullum first, then probably Allison, while Chandler, Platt and Quay are for Reed.

A petition was circulated among the Nebraska delegation today, directed to the postmaster of the house, asking that official to appoint John Steen of Wahoo, Neb., to a place in the postoffice. Congressman Haines is active in securing a place for Steen, who has been in Washington life in other congresses, and who would like to be fish agent.

Law May is to receive a boost in his candidacy for United States fish commissioner Saturday, when the Nebraska delegation will call upon the president to urge his appointment. While it may seem somewhat singular for a republican delegation to urge the appointment of a democrat, it is not unusual here this afternoon that for years past the Russian Black sea fleet has been under orders to be prepared for active service at any moment, and that, in addition, there is nothing new in the situation.

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