

TALK FOR PEACE NOW

SPANIARDS REALIZE THEIR DESPERATE SITUATION.

A Strong Commercial Body Pleads for the Cessation of the Distasteful One-Sided Struggle—Is Published in a Semi-Official Paper.

New York, June 20.—A dispatch to the New York Herald from Madrid says:

An allocation to the government by the powerful council general of Catalonia, which represents the mercantile intelligence of Spain, calling for peace, has created a deep impression here, all the more on account of the logical and practical reasonings with which the council advocates a cessation of hostilities.

It states that although the council considers America's conduct unqualifiedly unjust, yet that does not justify Spain in continuing an unequal combat, which is bound to result in overwhelming ruin. "It is better," it says, to submit to an amputation, painful though it be, than to carry on a terrible war with its thousands of disasters. The matter will not be any more glorious after we have been ruined and the blood of thousands of our soldiers shed." The allocation ends with a call for immediate peace.

The endless objections raised in the cortes to the taxation necessary for the continuation of the war are met by the governmental organ, El Dia. It says: "The country neither asks for nor wants war. It understands neither its origin nor its issue, and on that account shows neither enthusiasm of any kind nor on that account does it respond by its attitude to the responsibilities which the situation imposes upon the government. It refuses sacrifices which would willingly be accepted under other circumstances. With such a sentiment existing it is impossible to ask the government to prolong a war for which the country doesn't seem inclined to provide the necessary resources. Without money we cannot have war."

The Epoca, whose seriousness is above question, says: "In our opinion El Dia reflects with thorough exactitude the position of the government. The Epoca cannot understand how the government can vacillate as to which course to take. It says: "There can be little doubt, according to the consensus of matured opinions, which have been gathered, that peace at the present moment, when the entire world gives full recognition to Spanish valor and bravery, is highly opportune under the circumstances, which may not be so good again."

MADRID, June 20.—There is considerable comment here to-day over a long conference which has just taken place between the British ambassador to Spain, Sir Henry Drummond-Wolff, and the Spanish minister for war, General Correa.

The newspapers of this city to-day publish the text of a manifesto from the inhabitants of Catalonia, of which Barcelona is the capital, in favor of peace between Spain and the United States.

LONDON, June 20.—Under the heading: "Is the Bank of Spain Solvent?" the London Statist lengthily discusses Spain's condition, saying: "Upon the bank's ability to finance the government depends the continuation and duration of the war. Practically the Spanish government is now reduced to the expedient of using the printing press to meet its war outlays and the longer that printing press is in operation and the more notes are issued the greater will be the depreciation of the value of the paper peseta. If the war lasts much longer we may see the paper peseta, which is now at a discount of 50 per cent, depreciate as did the assignat of France at the close of the last century. The forlorn suspension of specie payments cannot long be delayed. Indeed the suspension has practically occurred."

The Statist then presents an array of figures showing the exact position of the bank, with a note circulation of \$363,000,000 without any coin reserve available for its redemption, and further pointing out that such note circulation may be increased to \$500,000,000. Finally, the Statist says that in three years the Spanish and Cuban governments have borrowed \$200,000,000 from the Bank of Spain.

THINK MANILA HAS FALLEN.

Washington Believes That Dewey Has an Understanding With the Insurgents.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Dewey's report, taken in connection with the press reports, would seem to indicate that Manila probably has fallen by this time. One phrase used by the Admiral, that "they do not intend to take the city at the present time," warrants the belief that he has reached a perfect understanding with the insurgent leader, and that the town is not to be attacked until his own troops arrive. For some reason it is extremely desirable that such should be the case and that Dewey should receive the surrender of the town in person, rather than force the Spaniards to surrender to the insurgents and thereby afford a possible pretext for the interference of some of the European powers, whose ships are gathering in suspiciously large numbers in Manila bay.

PURISIMA CONCEPCION LANDS.

Manages to Elude the American Warships and Arrives at Manzanillo.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 20.—A dispatch from Manzanillo, province of Santiago de Cuba, announces the arrival there of the Spanish steamer Purisima Concepcion, which sailed from Kingston about 2 o'clock Thursday morning with food supplies for the Spanish troops and carrying, it is understood, \$100,000 gold.

The screw of an Atlantic steamer costs about £4,000.

IN FULL CONTROL OF THE BAY.

No More Spanish Resistance to Americans in Guantanamo.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 20.—The week's campaign in Eastern Cuba has resulted in the practical demolition of the outer fortifications of Santiago de Cuba, in anticipation of the arrival of the troops and the occupation of the fine harbor of Guantanamo, in which to-day are anchored such magnificent ships as the Oregon and the St. Paul, together with the Marblehead, Dolphin, Suwanee and eleven other auxiliary gunboats, colliers and press dispatch boats, in an average depth of seventeen fathoms of water.

The military resistance to the definite occupation has practically ceased since the bombardment on Wednesday. An intercepted official report of the Spanish military commandant indicates that his military resources are exhausted. His soldiers are now on half rations. There are supplies only for the remainder of June. The commandant has already seized all the private drug supplies for the soldiers.

The close cordon maintained by the Cubans about Guantanamo is illustrated by the fact that official Spanish communications, sent in duplicate by land and water, have been intercepted and the Spanish messengers in both cases have been shot by the Cubans while attempting to pass the lines.

For the last three nights there has been comparative quiet in the camp of the marines on the crest of the hill near Guantanamo bay. At dusk volunteers from the warships go ashore and camp near the hill to be at hand in case of an emergency, and the Cubans go far out in the chaparral in order to prevent the Spaniards from stealing a march on the camp.

General Perez, commanding the Eastern division of the insurgent army, called on Captain McCalla of the Marblehead yesterday and reported that he had 3,000 men, of whom 1,200 would reinforce the marines in a few days. Many bands of insurgents are now gathered along the coast, westward to Santiago de Cuba.

The warships have done no firing since Wednesday's bombardment of the fortifications of the inner harbor and the town of Calmanera.

The Marblehead and Texas struck contact mines without exploding them. Each mine contained forty pounds of gun cotton, sufficient to destroy any vessel.

The bombardment of Guantanamo bay was not so heavy as at Santiago. The Spaniards fired only five shots and then fled. Three shots struck near the Marblehead, but none hit her. The ships steamed within 3,000 yards of the fort before opening fire, and then fired with deadly accuracy.

The Texas stopped in the narrow channel to avoid grounding, but the Marblehead steamed ahead and swung around the south side of the harbor. Her first shots went wild, but the little Suwanee, which was following her, found the range and sent shots straight into the foundation of the fort, hurling into the air bricks and dust. The Texas finished the business, two of her 12-inch shells reducing the fort to a picturesque and useless ruin.

The Marblehead then turned her attention to the barracks and breastworks southwest of the harbor and speedily demolished them, sending the Spanish garrison flying for their lives. As the Spaniards ran down the mainland the St. Paul's 5-inch guns were trained on them, and several of the soldiers were seen to fall. The number of killed and wounded is not known.

The bombardment lasted an hour and a quarter and was for the purpose of preventing a movement of Spanish troops from the town to the fortifications. The insurgent forces, which have been armed and equipped by Captain McCalla, not only prove to be daring scouts, but turn out to be brave fighters and good shots with the Lee-Metford rifles.

CAUSE OF THE DELAY.

Railroad Officials Say It Was the Gross Incompetency of Army Quartermasters.

CHICAGO, June 20.—A prominent railroad official who returned from Tampa to-day said: The delays attending the transportation of troops from Tampa were caused by the lack of ability on the part of army quartermasters, who seemed to be utterly unable to properly discharge their duties. Many carloads of provisions for the troops were not handled promptly and their contents, in consequence, spoiled, and had to be thrown into the sea. The magnificent military system of the United States is defective in the quartermaster's department. There is apparently a lack of quartermasters who have a thorough knowledge of up-to-date rail as well as ship transportation. It seems that the remedy for it is to give instructions at West Point in transportation, so that army officers can supervise the work of this most important department and see that it is properly done.

Prince Bismarck's Health.

BERLIN, June 20.—Prince Bismarck's health is causing renewed anxiety. He is reported to be suffering great pain from inflammation of the veins of his right leg. His daily drive has been suspended, and his sleep is broken.

Hawaii in the Senate.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—The foreign relations committee yesterday reported favorably to the Senate the Newlands resolution for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. Debate will begin Monday. The Democrats will make vigorous opposition to the bill.

Large Railroad Earnings.

CHICAGO, June 20.—Gross earnings of 132 American railroads for the first five months of the present year show an increase, as compared with the corresponding period of 1897, of \$29,902,830. The aggregate gross earnings of these roads was \$224,761,111.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

SOME SAYINGS AND DOINGS IN STAGELAND.

The "Tree of Knowledge" Is the Play Spoiled by the Presence of a Character—Some of the Dialogue Quoted—Various Notes and Comments.



It has been a source of some surprise that "The Tree of Knowledge" has not been rated for qualities which were termed vicious by some eastern authorities. In the West there has been an intent to accept the piece as a good sample of clever play-writing; there has been no desire to examine into its unmoral. Where there arose a cry over the wickedness of the drama there was an eye only to the single character, Belle, the adventuress, who seeks the ruin of nearly all the men in the play. But it was evidently forgotten that the author had made this woman such a monster of cruelty and depravity as to be an utter impossibility in the minds of most theatergoers, save those few whose sad experience has taught them she is a true type, "The Tree of Knowledge" assuredly is no food for the young person; but it is not immoral because its atmosphere is sweet, though spoiled at times by one irredeemable character. And as for the way that single role is handled, a bit from the dialogue will determine that the dramatist him-



PHOEBE DAVIES.

self holds out little for her, even if he declines to let us into the secret of her ultimate fate. Further than that, he puts into her mouth such utterances as are bound to alienate all sympathy. In one passage she says to Nigil: "Come, come. Let's be honest. Why discuss what I might have been? I am what I am; virtue is a question of temperament, whatever the good people may find it convenient to say. You remind me I may still have a husband to maunder and drivél—children—I hate children!—to cling to my skirts. Are these the elements of the 'moderate' comfort you promise? Look at me, Nigil. You knew me well enough once, and I'm not the kind of a woman a man forgets. Look at me and find your answer."

To which Nigil makes retort: "I am looking at you; and I can see far on into the future, when the beauty that men have bought will no longer have a price; when the auction-room will be deserted; when death will be



"BELLE." the only bidder left, and the hammer will fall for the last time." This dialogue follows and brings about the actual climax of the play, a climax, by the way, as stirring as any noted this season: Belle—Well, we must all die some time. Meanwhile, I shall have lived. There! I have listened patiently. Help me on with my cloak. Nigil—If you make a movement toward that window, I kill you. Belle—A man at last, Nigil! Ah, you should have found your courage in the old days, and not cringed and groveled like the rest of them. Fool!

I might have loved you—there is a thought to put blood into your veins, and a tinge of color into your cheeks—I might have loved you! But the time is gone, the chance with it, and so—out of my way. Nigil—You shall not go. Belle—Would you really kill me? Oh, no, Nigil, you couldn't do that. Could you bear to tighten your grasp on this poor white throat that you have kissed so often—so often? Remember what I was to you—once, I am ready to listen to you—will you—lower that lamp? The light hurts my eyes. Nigil—Devil! That lamp is a sign to your lover. You knew it would bring him to you. Belle—Let me go. Nigil—No. Belle—You're mad! Nigil—Mad! yes—perhaps I am! Belle—Take your cursed hands away. Why, your poor millstone that I shook off long ago, do you think there is weight in you to hold me back? Worship at the shrine of St. Monica—or stand aside and let her console Brian; by-and-by, when you're tired of her, he might take your place; it wouldn't be for the first time.

This covers the much-debated scene of the play, and in the lines quoted you have all that caused New York to hold its hands in amazé; the wonderment sprung mainly from the fact, though, that the piece should be done at the Lyceum, "the home theater" of Gotham, which had been built by the watery Belasco-De Mille society plays. "The Tree of Knowledge" is splendidly written, and it is a model that aspiring dramatists might place side by side with "The Princess and the Butterfly" as an example of careful writing.

A satire published by the Italian professor, G. Lanzone, under the title of "Thorny Flowers," and directed against the tendencies and writings of Gabriele d'Annunzio, has aroused the anger of this Italian poet to such an extent that he considers it necessary to wipe out the insult with blood. He has challenged accordingly Professor Lanzone, who has accepted the duel, which will shortly be fought near Florence, unless the affair is previously arranged amicably.

Phoebe Davies was born in Cardigan, South Wales, in 1876, but was brought to San Francisco, Cal., when a child. Her father was a sea captain, employed in government service. She made her first appearance upon any stage in the Baldwin theater, San Francisco, on August 9, 1881, appearing as Marie in George M. Ciprico's play of "Adolphe Challet." In the cast were such skilled players as Osmond Tearle, Gerald Eyrce and Jeffreys Lewis. From ingenue roles Miss Davies rapidly advanced to the position of leading lady, and a great number of important parts were intrusted to her. She was the original Nadia in "Michael Strogoff," she played the women of Shakespeare; she supported such stars as Rossi and Wm. E. Sheridan, and before she was eighteen she was selected to create the title role in Clay M. Green's "Chispa." Her success was so great that she was urged to come East, but her parents would not consent. When Chas. H. Hoyt's "A Midnight Bell" was originally produced with a special cast, in San Francisco, Miss Davies was the Det. As leading lady of Joseph R. Grismer's company her name became a household word upon the Pacific coast. William A. Brady was then the comedian of this company. When he became manager he brought Miss Davies East, and she was conspicuous in such productions as "Humanity" and "The New South." But it was reserved for "Way Down East." Mr. Brady's current production, with which he inaugurated his skillful management of the Manhattan, to enable Miss Davies to score her greatest triumph. "Way Down East" is essentially a woman's play, and Phoebe Davies a woman's favorite. She has the tear compelling gift, and has become a very conspicuous figure upon the metropolitan stage.

Indian oak, one of the hardest of woods, will sink in water.

THE DEADLY MAXIM.

FIRES SIX HUNDRED SHOTS IN THE SPACE OF A MINUTE.

How It Was Begun—The Weapon Is Capable of Annihilating Armies—Suggested by the Kick of a Mosket—No Army Can Withstand It.



NE of the most destructive engines of warfare is the automatic gun, invented by Hiram S. Maxim, and known to the world over as the Maxim gun. It is called automatic because all the functions of loading and firing are performed by energy derived from the burning powder. The operator aims, pulls the trigger and the gun does the rest. The terrible effectiveness of this weapon will be understood when it is known that it is capable of firing something over 600 balls a minute, and can be aimed so as to mow down the ranks of an advancing foe, even as the sickle of a reaper cuts down grain. The gun should not be confounded with machine guns, such as the Gatling, the Gardner, etc., which are usually operated by means of a crank turned by the hand. The automatic gun had its origin when, in 1854, the father of Hiram S. Maxim, then living in Orneville, Maine, conceived the idea of making a gun to be fired by machinery. This was before the time of the metallic cartridge, and Mr. Maxim's idea was to lead short sections of steel tubes, each provided with a common percussion cap and to fasten them together in the form of a chain. These were to be fed to a single barrel and fired by the drawing back of a lever. Mr. Maxim was confident that such a gun could be made to fire 100 rounds a minute. This, so far as known, was the inception of the machine gun. Hiram S. Maxim, his son, although at this time not 16 years old, made drawings and models of his father's gun, and took them to a gun-maker at Bangor, who was well pleased with the gun, but told the lad that it would take a great deal of money to make one. The money his father did not have. Hiram, however, with the instinct of a great inventor, knew he had hold of a valuable idea, and continued the investigation. He made improvements, and tried to interest those who had money in the invention, but without success. Now came the civil

war and with it metallic cartridges. Renewed efforts were made to have the gun given a fair trial; but the government had no confidence in it, and no private individual or company could be induced to undertake the testing of one. When the war was over Hiram Maxim went south and while there was kicked, not by a mule, but by a Springfield musket, which he was firing at a target. The force of the kick surprised him—it did more. It suggested to him the idea of utilizing the energy of a military rifle to more purpose than the making of black and blue marks on innocent shoulders. This waste energy was just what was needed to furnish a gun similar to his father's machine with motive power for feeding, firing and ejecting the cartridges. He returned home, elated with the possibilities of the idea, and showed his father his plan for making the energy of the kick of a military rifle perform all the functions of loading and firing. He believed that, if the cartridges were fastened together, on a belt, it would be only necessary with such a gun to pull the trigger and the recoil would continue to keep the gun going so long as the cartridges lasted. But his father thought the mechanism would be too complicated and expensive to make the gun a practical military weapon, and advised him to hold fast to the original machine gun. In the meantime, however, other inventors had been at work and the Gatling and similar guns were placed on the market. This discouraged the Maxims. During 1881 to 1883, while in France, Hiram S. Maxim again took up the subject of the automatic gun, and thought out one that he was confident would be a practical success. He now went to England, hired suitable quarters, provided himself with tools and began a series of experiments. In his first experiments the recoil action was confined to the breech mechanism and the cartridge case, the barrel remaining stationary. But this method was not entirely satisfactory, and subsequent experiments convinced him that it was necessary to allow the barrel to recoil with the mechanism. He made an apparatus, holding seven cartridges in its magazine, all of which he was able to fire in less than one second, or at the rate of about 600 rounds per minute. This was the first successful gun that would load and fire itself. Mr. Maxim knew the value of his discovery, and he now wisely set about securing patents in

every country of the world, and for every conceivable means of firing machine guns by powder derived from the burning of powder. This done, he began the making of automatic guns, and soon produced a weapon, weighing forty pounds and capable of firing 2,000 rounds in a little over three minutes. The operator sits on a seat in the rear of the gun, his head slightly protected by a small metal shield, pulls the trigger, and, as the gun pours forth its deadly hail of bullets, he swings the barrel back and forth so as to sweep down the rank of an advancing foe. The lightness and adaptability of the Maxim gun makes its use possible in all departments of the service. In a mountainous country it can be carried on the backs of mules, or, if need be, by the men themselves. It may be mounted on a tricycle, or placed on wheels drawn by horses. The military marts of a battleship are usually armed with these weapons; and their decks are protected against boarders by Maxim guns, stationed where they could get in their deadly work to the best advantage. Nor is this gun confined to barrels of a small calibre. It is possible to make an automatic gun weighing 150 tons, with seventeen or eighteen inch bore, capable of firing from two to three shots a minute. Mr. Maxim is confident that, in the near future, the automatic system will be applied to nearly all styles of firearms. Such is the terrible weapon known as the Maxim gun, probably the most destructive arm in existence. Armies will fall before its hot blasts of death, like grain before a sickle, and the men who will be called upon to face the flaming missiles of these guns will march

"Into the jaws of death, Into the mouth of hell,"

in a sense even more terribly realistic than did the hero-riders of Balacava.

BROADENING EFFECT OF WAR

It Has Awakened Seventy Million of Anglo-Saxons.

Every process of our national thought and action has been marvelously quickened, just as the Roman intellect was fired when Rome was expanded from a municipality into an empire. Throughout the length and breadth of this land petty politics is losing its wonted savor for the average American. Why should he trouble his head about parochial affairs when he is confronted with questions affecting the fate of great dependencies either at our own doors or at the antipodes; why should he lie awake about the sayings and doings of local politicians when any hour may bring news decisive of the fate of an army or of a fleet of battleships on which the hopes of the country rest? This was shown by a telegram addressed to the Times-Democrat on Sunday last from a little village in Mississippi. The telegram read as follows: "Please wire us immediately, at out expense, the exact situation in the Philippines and the whereabouts of Sampon's and Schley's fleets; also what attitude France is assuming in the execution of the neutrality laws in Martinique." It required no vivid imagination to realize the scenes when the telegram was sent. Evidently there had been a long and thorough discussion of all the tremendous questions that confront the country and at last anxiety to know the latest developments became uncontrollable, and the telegraph was invoked. The mental attitude of this Mississippi hamlet is universal, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from the lakes to the gulf. It means that 70,000,000 of Anglo-Saxons have awakened to the fact that there is other business in life besides raising crops, manipulating stocks and "scalping" markets. We have some things forgotten that nations are not so great because they are rich, and that in the eternal order of things they can only be permanently rich because they are great. The lesson will not be forgotten in our time. The real basis of our abounding prosperity in recent years must be found in the limitless devotion with which millions of Americans, in the four terrible years, laid everything on the altar of their political principles. Now once more the foundation of our national life is to be widened and strengthened, not by war between brother and brother, but between the reunited nation and a power that stands for all the most reactionary methods and policies of the Bourbon school of thought and action.—New York Sun.



HIRAM MAXIM.

Aluminum Shoes for Cavalry Horses

Russia has tried experiments with aluminum shoes for cavalry horses. A few horses in the Finland Dragoons were shod with one aluminum shoe and three iron shoes each, the former being on the fore foot in some cases, and on the hind foot in others. The experiment lasted six weeks, and showed that the aluminum shoes lasted longer and preserved the foot better than the iron ones.

Not That Kind.

A lady who advertised for a girl "to do light housework" received a letter from an applicant, who said her health needed sea air, and asked if the lady would kindly inform her where the light-house was situated.—Tit-Bits.

Foolish.

The burro was disgusted with the antics of his son. He shook his head for a long time and then said to his wife: "That boy of ours is a natural fool. I never saw an ass make such a man of himself as he has."

Hurt Her Feelings.

"No; my wife feels worse since she went to see Dr. Blunt." "Indeed?" "Yes; he told her there was little the matter with her, and there was no reason to make such a fuss about it."—Puck.