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STORY OF THE EXTRAORDINARY BRAVERY OF THE CREW OF THE MERRIMAC TOLD BY CADET POWELL.

ONE OF THE MOST DARING FEATS IN NAVAL WARFARE

Lieutenant Hobson and His Seven Men of Iron Nerve and Patriotism Now Rank Side by Side with the Greatest Naval Heroes.

Washington, D. C., June 6.—The navy department has posted the following bulletin:

"Mole, Hayti, June 4.—Succeeded in sinking the Merrimac in the channel of Santiago at 4 p. m., June 3. This was carried out most gallantly under the command of Naval Constructor Hobson and seven men. By a flag of truce from the Spanish admiral Cervera, sent in recognition of their bravery, I am informed, all are prisoners of war, two slightly wounded. Request authority to approve exchange, if possible, between these and prisoners at Atlanta. Six of the Spanish squadron in the harbor of Santiago, unable to avoid being captured or destroyed, were destroyed. Port au Prince, Hayti, June 4.—During tremendous bombardment of the fortifications of Santiago de Cuba by the American squadron to attract the real purpose in view, beginning about 3 o'clock Friday morning the collier (a coaling ship) Merrimac, Lieutenant Hobson commanding, with seven seamen, dashed over the torpedo mines, through the terrific firing from land batteries and powerful guns on the imprisoned Spanish warships to a selected spot in the harbor entrance, turned the vessel crosswise in the neck of the harbor and deliberately sunk her to the bottom.

It was as successful as it was a desperate effort to so obstruct the outlet of the harbor that it is impossible for any of the Spanish fleet to escape.

Just inside the entrance the channel is so narrow that a vessel as large as the Merrimac sunk there would make it impossible for Admiral Cervera's ships to pass on either side. She went down "perpendicular (a pic). An officer, an engineer and six seamen were taken prisoners. Only the funnel and mast heads of the sunken vessel can be seen.

There was great excitement in the city. A part of the population assisted in the fishing up the heights. Everybody is astounded at the audacity of the American vessel.

The American squadron was cruising all the while in the offing. The Merrimac was a collier vessel of 5,362 tons, and was capable of carrying 5,000 tons of coal. She was purchased by the government from Jefferson Hogan of New York, and, unlike most of the colliers which have been purchased, she was not renamed, but bore the same name in the navy that she sailed under when in the merchant service.

The officers of the Merrimac were Commander James M. Miller, commanding; Lieutenant W. W. Gilmer, executive; ensign, J. M. Luby; ensign, J. R. Y. Blakely; assistant engineer, R. K. Crank.

Now that Admiral Sampson has thoroughly blockaded the entrance to Santiago harbor and penned Admiral Cervera and his ships inside he can leave Commodore Schley in front of Santiago with a few ships and can take the remainder of his fleet to Puerto Rico to operate with the military expedition against that island.

Mole St. Nicholas, June 6.—The name of Hobson has gone on the list of American heroes with Lawrence and Paul Jones, Perry and Cushing and the rest.

For it was Lieutenant Richmond P. Hobson of Alabama who took the big collier Merrimac right into the channel of Santiago, in the face of the fire from all the Spanish ships and batteries, and there deliberately sank the vessel to keep Cervera in the harbor until such time as the Americans get ready to capture him and his ships of war.

Thursday night Admiral Sampson decided to send the Merrimac in and sink her at the channel's narrowest part.

He called for volunteers, explaining that it was a desperate mission, death being almost certain for all those who ventured in.

SHOWN THEIR METAL.
Then the navy showed the stuff it is made of. Admiral Sampson had eight men. He could have had every officer and man in the fleet. Every one was more than ready.

Many begged for the chance with tearful eyes. But Hobson and seven others were selected, and the rest had to content themselves with giving the heroes a cheer as they went to their death or fame.

Just before 3 o'clock Friday morning, the collier, deeply laden with ballast material and some coal, was headed without preliminary maneuvering straight for the entrance, over which the remaining batteries of Morro from one side, and those of Socapa from the other.

DASHED INTO THE HARBOR.
In the dark of the early morning the Merrimac, without a light showing anywhere, dashed well in the line of the fortifications before she was discovered, our ships thundering at the enemy's batteries to divert their attention from the collier.

The eye could not follow the Merrimac, but the ear soon told that she had been detected by the Spaniards, and that every possible gun was being brought to bear on her.

The Spaniards may have also endeavored to destroy her by the mines they are supposed to have in the harbor, but if the attempt was made it did not succeed, for the Merrimac went to the point which Admiral Sampson had directed Hobson to take her to. There she was anchored and coolly swung across the channel.

Then Hobson blew a hole in her bottom, and with his seven men, only two of whom had been injured, took to a boat.

All that is yet known of that heroic dash, beyond these bare facts, comes from Admiral Cervera himself.

The Spanish commander's own word to Admiral Sampson under a flag of truce, of the capture of the eight American dare-devils.

PRaised BY CERVERA.
He gallantly praised their heroism and offered to arrange an exchange for Spanish prisoners now in the hands of the United States.

From the boat bearing the flag of truce it was learned that the Merrimac was frequently hit while steaming up the narrow channel, but not one of the shots disabled her.

More than a hundred projectiles struck her, but a dozen struck home, and two of her intrepid men were bruised by splinters from the woodwork.

When Hobson left the ship in the boat he made an effort to row out of the harbor and regain the American fleet, but he had gone too far up the channel, and he soon saw that the effort to pass all the aroused batteries in the then daylight would mean the sacrifice of all his crew.

Soon he turned and rowed straight for the Spanish squadron. Some shots were still sent after the boat, but before long the Spaniards saw that Hobson evidently intended to give himself up, and ceased firing.

The American lieutenant rowed straight to the Almirante Oquendo and surrendered to Admiral Cervera, who treated them with the respect due gallant men who were prisoners of war.

It was undoubtedly his admiration for the heroism displayed in the dash

COL. W. J. BRYAN

THE GREAT NATURAL BORN GENERAL APPOINTED.

VIFQUAIN AND MERCER ALSO

LIEUTENANT - COLONEL AND SURGEON ARE SELECTED.

Nebraska's Third Regiment is Being Quickly Recruited with Men Drawn From the Flower of the State.

Lincoln, Neb., June 7.—Governor Holcomb on Saturday last caused the following declaration to be made: "Adjutant General's Office, Lincoln, Neb., June 4, 1898.—General Order No. 20: The following regimental appointments for the Third regiment, Nebraska volunteer infantry, have been determined upon and are published for the information of all concerned: Colonel, William J. Bryan, Lincoln; lieutenant colonel, Victor Vifquain, Lincoln; surgeon, with rank of major, S. D. Mercer, M. D., Omaha. By direction of the governor, H. P. BARRY, Adjutant General.

There are numerous fine young men of great and healthy stature like Nebraska whose minds are so dwarfed as to impugn the motives of Colonel Bryan and his associates in organizing a regiment to be placed at the disposal of President McKinley. The Washington Post says:

COLONEL WILLIAM J. BRYAN.

"It appears that Mr. Bryan may get his regiment after all. We hope he will. He has come forward at his country's call, anxious to serve it in any useful way, and has devoted himself to the creation and organization of a Nebraska regiment. He has not sought vainly without success. He has recruited a great number of volunteers, many of them of the finest quality of men, and he has secured the support of the people. He has not sought vainly without success. He has recruited a great number of volunteers, many of them of the finest quality of men, and he has secured the support of the people.

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NEBRASKA TROOPS NEXT.

The Long Delay Prolonged Another Ten Days.

San Francisco, Cal., June 7.—The orders from Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn to get the Nebraska regiment away on the next expedition to Manila caused wild joy in the camp of those volunteers. It is only ten days possibly take place before ten days. Everybody hoped to get started by the middle of this week, but it is said that it would be criminal to send unaccompanied men over with insufficient accommodations. None will be sent until transports are so fixed that men can lie comfortably on board both on the trip and after reaching the Philippines. This is not the case now, and were the troops herded on board under the present conditions it is deemed certain an epidemic would break out. Five ships will go—The Colon, China, Centennial, Zealandia and Ohio.

The first move indicating the Nebraska troops are sure to go was made Saturday morning. Colonel Hughes rigidly inspected the First Nebraska regiment, and said he was surprised at the way it showed up. It is better equipped and better drilled than he thought. He said it was a fine regiment. Men were in heavy marching order.

NEBRASKA NAVAL RESERVES.

Five Hundred Young Men of the State Given a Chance.

Washington, D. C., June 7.—Assistant Secretary of the Navy Allen stated to Colonel Stark of the Fourth Nebraska district that 500 naval reserves would be accepted by the navy department should so many men be enlisted from that state. The pay of a naval reserve is \$16 per month and four dollars a week for comfortable quarters, free from malaria, pure water and other features not given those in the army, especially an army of invasion. Secretary Allen said that if companies of naval reserves could be raised in the state he would detail a surgeon to make the necessary physical examination, and they would at once be sent to join the auxiliary fleet. Congressman Stark has written a letter to Governor Holcomb, outlining what inducements the navy holds out for young men desiring to earn something about their life on the sea.

YOUNG STARK ENLISTS.

Congressman's Son Joins a Naval Battalion at Washington.

Omaha, June 7.—Lucien Stark, son of Congressman W. L. Stark, now representing the Fourth congressional district of Nebraska in Speaker Reed's congress, has enlisted in the naval battalion, District of Columbia, at Washington, D. C., which is now with its 299 plucky and enthusiastic men on the high road to success.

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THE MONEY POWER

CAPTURES U. S. SENATE BY A DECISIVE VOTE.

THE SUGAR-COATED PILL

SPEAKER REED TO CUT OFF ALL GOOD FEATURES.

The Taxation of Corporations to Be Fixed in Conference Committee—Infamous Bond Proposition Pulling Through as Per Program.

Washington, D. C., June 6.—By a vote of 48 to 27 the senate passed the war tax bill at 7 o'clock Saturday evening. The bill, with its nearly 200 amendments, is sent back to the house with the usual addition of a conference committee on the part of the senate named in advance—Senators Allison, Aldrich and Jones of Arkansas.

The house adjourned until today after a brief session Saturday, but it is confidently predicted that the measure will be out of conference and become a law before Saturday night of this week. Mr. Dingley says by Wednesday night.

As it stands the bill, it is estimated conservatively, will raise as much additional revenue as the Dingley act itself. Numerous schedules will raise more than \$10,000,000 each.

So sweeping is the measure that even such experts as Aldrich and Allison will not venture to go into details as to the extent to which the revenues will be affected. The war taxes of the '60s afford no safe basis for an estimate, as in the last thirty years the business of the country has multiplied out of all proportion to the increase of population.

Three amendments adopted will affect the producing power of the bill to the extent of millions. Senator Tillman's amendment which was adopted taxing all tea imported after July 1 to cents a pound will produce \$8,000,000.

SWEETENING STAMP TAX.
The Shilton amendment extending the stamp tax to all articles of a proprietary character sold at retail in packages carries an elephant in its stomach, as they are admitted to pass estimates. If accepted in conference, not less than \$15,000,000 additional may be looked for from this source alone.

The tax of 2 cents on each sleeping car ticket sold will probably fall on the sleeping car companies, as it is not expected that exactly that addition will be made to each ticket, although it is suggested that by a readjustment of certain distance rates the tax can, as usual, be shifted to the public.

An amendment of some interest to newspapers was the exception from the stamp tax of newspaper express packages weighing less than 100 pounds.

In conference four-fifths of the senate amendments will be accepted or adjusted at comparatively little friction, as they are admittedly improvements of the measure. But on about twenty, there will be considerable discussion.

MAY BE MODIFIED.

The stamp taxes will be accepted almost as they passed, with some with the exception of the Shilton amendment, which will, as one senator expressed it, tax everything in "enclosures, from a box of tooth picks to a herd of cattle in a ten acre lot." It is regarded as too sweeping a proposition.

The Wolcott amendment providing for cutting the minimum rate of stamp taxes may be further modified in the direction of simplicity, but will remain in substantial form as they are under the senate amendments.

Senator White's amendment placing a tax of 1/4 per cent upon the receipts of express and sugar refining companies is doomed. The majority of the conferees are against it, claiming that these companies are peculiarly able to shift any tax imposed on them directly to the consumers of oil and sugar.

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ALL CUBAN CABLES CUT.

The Last Strands Binding Cuba to Outside World Severed.

Off Santiago de Cuba, June 6.—(Per the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Wanda, via Kingston, Jamaica, June 5.)—The last cable strands binding Cuba to the outside world were cut Friday afternoon by a cable vessel conveyed here by the United States dispatch boat Dolphin. This black sea crab delved all day along the coast, hour by hour, and its powerful claws at length brought up the barbed-iron cables, which were severed by the Dolphin.

The first cable picked up was that running to Kingston. The coast loop connecting Santiago and Guantanamo was then cut. Proceeding to Guantanamo the cable vessel finally grappled and severed the Haytian cable. This ends the cable cutting operations begun a month ago, when the Maribou and the Windom lost five men in a fight off Cienfuegos, where three died. Spanish cables were severed by the Dolphin.

The cutting of these cables is almost as serious for the Spaniards in coast towns as the cutting of foreign cables. The land wires connecting the coast towns being wholly at the mercy of the insurgents. Therefore, in the event of American troops landing in Cuba, the absence of the coast loops will seriously interfere with the hasty mobilization of the Spanish troops.

DYNAMITE THE MERRIMAC.

Don't Attempt to Clear the Channel—Crazy Yankees.

Port au Prince, Hayti, June 6.—It is learned from Santiago that the Spanish dynamite has been endeavoring to clear the channel, so that Admiral Cervera may put to sea if opportunity offers or if another Spanish fleet should come to relieve him. Meanwhile, the insurgents are closing in on the city, as if momentarily expecting an attack by the Americans.

There is a report in Santiago that a great army of Americans is being landed near the harbor's mouth. There has been a rumor here that the American battleships had forced the entrance to Santiago bay and engaged Admiral Cervera's squadron, but Santiago denies this, and reports everything quiet since the Merrimac episode, except for a skirmish with a small band of insurgents in the suburbs.

The American prisoners are still on the island, and there is much curiosity to see the men who are called crazy Yankees. The officers on the ships will not permit the prisoners to be annoyed, however, and are treating them well.

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