

CUBAN EXPEDITION.

A Company of United States Troops Leaves Tampa for Cuba.

Several Spanish Vessels Captured Off Havana and Taken to Key West—Reports of Encounters with the Enemy's Warships Unconfirmed.

TAMPA, Fla., May 10.—The steamer Gussie, one of the Mallory line boats, chartered by the government for use as a transport, will sail for Cuba today, loaded with arms, ammunition and supplies furnished by the United States government for the use of the Cuban insurgents. A company of 100 United States troops from the First regiment of infantry will accompany the expedition and aid in guarding the landing of the valuable cargo, and will, if necessary, penetrate into the interior far enough to place the supplies in the hands of the insurgents. The expedition will be in charge of Capt. W. H. Dorst, Gen. Miles' aide, who has just returned from Cuba. The Gussie has on board between 6,000 and 7,000 Springfield rifles, about 200,000 rounds of ammunition and several hundred boxes of provisions, consisting principally of canned meats and hardtack. The utmost secrecy is maintained regarding the point of landing, but in view of Capt. Dorst's recent landing near Havana, where he communicated with the insurgent leader, Gen. Delgado, it is believed that the expedition will be headed for a point not far from Havana. The Gussie had mounted on her forward deck yesterday a one-pounder rapid-fire gun. It is understood, however, that she will be met at some point not far from Key West by a gunboat from the blockading squadron and escorted to the designated landing place. It is intimated that the Whitney will follow the Gussie to Cuba as soon as her arms, ammunition and supplies can be loaded. Before a week has passed it is believed that the insurgent leaders will have been furnished with arms enough for at least 15,000 men and, with a base of supplies established on the coast, a vigorous campaign against the Spanish forces will be inaugurated. Maj. Gen. James F. Wade is now in command of the army of invasion, by his right as senior officer, displacing Maj. Gen. W. R. Shafter, heretofore in command. Orders to this effect were received from Washington last night. Large amounts of powder and projectiles for the blockading squadron are now arriving here. Hundreds of carpenters are at work fitting up the big transports. It is believed now that all of the boats here will be in readiness for loading by Wednesday night. The engineer corps yesterday were drilled to the use of the big canvas pontoons, which are a part of their equipment. In the capacious hold of the Alamo are stored enough of these pontoons to form a bridge several hundred feet in length. They will be carried with the expedition.

KEY WEST RUMORS.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 10.—The Spanish fishing smack Santiago Apostol was captured by the gunboat Mayflower off Havana and brought in by a prize crew yesterday afternoon. She was bound from Yucatan for Havana with a cargo of fish and a crew of ten men. She was rounded up with one blank shot. This was the only incident of the day, which was largely devoted to the circulation of alarming rumors of the sinking of American ships off the Cuban coast. Up to nightfall nothing approaching definite evidence of the blockading fleet had reached here. The story flourishing at that hour was that heavy firing had been heard off Havana. This was brought in by small boats, and was as much in need of verification as the others. Naval men here, however, incline to the belief that the Spanish batteries on the north coast will seize every chance to fire on American ships, and would not be surprised to hear at any moment of a battle at or off Havana. Intelligence of Rear Admiral Sampson's squadron was also eagerly looked for. It is believed that it has already reached its destination and that news of an engagement should soon arrive. Three separate reports of engagements of United States warships reached here last night, but thus far details are wanting. One rumor is that the cruiser Montgomery has captured two prizes off Cape Haytien, after a sharp battle with two Spanish gunboats and put in to St. Nicholas slightly damaged. Another says that the tug Osceola, of the mosquito fleet, was fired upon near Havana, and the third is that three Spanish gunboats fired upon the United States torpedo boat Winslow at Cardenas but were repulsed by the Winslow after one had been disabled.

The Vicksburg last night brought in a fishing smack, the Fernandillo, taken off Havana. Both ships are lying out and swing to the regulations. No details can be ascertained. The Spanish schooner Severe was captured by the gunboat Dolphin while trying to make her way into Havana harbor early yesterday morning.

Dewey Day at St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS, May 10.—Mayor Ziegenhein has officially proclaimed Saturday, May 14, a public holiday in honor of the victory of Adm. George Dewey. A mammoth celebration will take place at Forest park.

NATIONAL LAWMAKERS.

A Condensed Report of the Doings of Our Senators and Representatives in Washington.

THE senate was not in session on the 3d.... When the house met the chaplain gave thanks for the victory won by our fleet and prayed that it might be the means of soon ending the war. The senate bill with an amendment for the sale of public lands in Missouri was passed. It was also voted to insist upon the house amendments to the bill for organizing a navy battalion in the District of Columbia and a conference was asked. Consideration of private bills was then begun. After wards a recess was taken and at the night session 22 pension bills and a number of acts correcting military records were passed.

SENATOR STEWART presented in the senate on the 4th an amendment to the war revenue measure for issuing \$500,000,000 treasury notes instead of bonds. It was referred to the finance committee. The conference report on the fortifications bill was adopted. A bill to allow the Knight of Pythias to maintain a sanitarium on the government reservation at Hot Springs, Ark., was passed. Senator Cockrell (Mo.) secured the passage of a resolution asking the secretary of the treasury to make a report about the silver in the treasury, the amount of seigniorage, the number of dollars coined, etc. The bill providing for the presidential succession in certain contingencies was passed, a rider by Senator Mills (Tex.), meeting the points raised by the supreme court against the income tax proposition, being defeated by a party vote.... The house adopted the conference report on the fortifications bill and passed a resolution repealing the act prohibiting the passage of importations in bond through the territory of the United States into the "free zone" of Mexico. Mr. Newlands (Nev.) introduced a joint resolution for the annexation of Hawaii.

THE senate on the 5th had under consideration the post office appropriation bill. The measure carries \$99,234,300. The most important action taken was the adoption of an amendment offered by Senator Tillman (S. C.) reducing the deliveries of mail in all cities to a number not exceeding four each day. The action of the committee in striking out the appropriation for \$300,000 for rural free delivery was sustained and the bill now carries no appropriation for such delivery. Just before adjournment a war measure was passed authorizing the president to supply the Cuban insurgents with arms and munitions of war and empowering United States army officers serving in Cuba to give needy inhabitants of the island medicines and food.... The house agreed to the conference report on the Alaskan bill extending the homestead laws and providing for certain railway rights in the territory. The measure providing for the arbitration of disputes between railroads and their employees was passed, besides a number of minor bills. The house then adjourned until the 9th.

THE senate on the 6th passed a bill to increase to 15 the number of surgeons in the United States army and to authorize the secretary of war to employ as many contract surgeons as he may deem necessary. The rest of the session was consumed by a discussion of an amendment to the post office appropriation bill offered by Senator Pettigrew (S. D.) providing for a reduction of 20 per cent. in the compensation of railroads for the transportation of mails. The amendment was still pending when the senate adjourned until the 9th.... The house was not in session.

LED INTO A TRAP.

The Vicksburg and Morrill Are Led Under the Guns of a Havana Battery and Narrowly Escape.

KEY WEST, Fla., May 9.—Only poor marksmanship on the part of the Spanish gunners saved the Vicksburg and the cutter Morrill from destruction off Havana Saturday morning. For over half an hour they were under the fire of the guns of the Santa Clara water batteries, but both escaped without material injury, although shrapnell from eight-inch guns exploded all about them and both now show the pitted scars of the Spanish bullets. The wily Spaniards had arranged a trap to send a couple of our ships to the bottom. They baited it as a man would bait a trap. A small schooner was sent out from Havana harbor shortly before daylight yesterday morning to draw some of the Americans in the ambush. The ruse worked like a charm. The Vicksburg and the Morrill, in the heat of the chase and in their contempt for Spanish gunnery, walked straight into the trap that had been set for them. Had the Spaniards possessed their souls in patience but five minutes longer, not even the bad gun practice would have saved our ships and to-day two more of our vessels would lie at the bottom, within two lengths of the wrecks of the ill-starred Maine.

WORST IN FIFTY YEARS.

Terrible Floods Are Devastating the Arkansas Valley—Towns Are Submerged and Thousands Rendered Homeless.

VAN BUREN, Ark., May 9.—The worst flood known since 1844 is devastating the Arkansas valley and towns along the banks of that stream are submerged, while many farm buildings are afloat. One-fourth of the residence part of this city is eight feet under water. Riverside and Babylon, two densely settled suburbs, are under water and several large residences have fallen into the river. Every foot of dry land is covered with household goods. Thousands of people have been driven from their homes and are being sheltered here. The M., K. & T. and Iron Mountain railroad systems are tied up in the Indian territory. Hundreds of thousands of dollars' damage has been done to plantations in Crawford county.

London Papers Praise Dewey.

LONDON, May 9.—The comment on the battle at Manila as the details come in is universally flattering to Commodore Dewey and the American navy. The Times says: "The destruction of the Spanish fleet was complete, as complete as any achievement recorded in naval annals. Commodore Dewey showing himself worthy alike of the great traditions of the United States navy and of his kinship with the race that produced Nelson."

HONORS FOR DEWEY.

A Vote of Thanks Extended by Congress to the Commadore.

Medals for His Officers and Men—Gallant Commadore to Be Promoted to Rear Admiral—President's Message to Congress on the Subject.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Fitting tribute was paid by congress yesterday to Commodore Dewey for the magnificent victory achieved in the battle of Manila bay. A message from the president was received by both houses recommending that a vote of thanks be extended by congress to Commodore Dewey and the gallant officers and men of his command. Without a word of debate and without a dissenting voice both houses agreed to a resolution carrying into effect the recommendation of the president.

Congress went farther even than that. A bill was presented increasing the number of rear admirals in the navy from six to seven, in order that the president might nominate Commodore Dewey to the highest position in the navy within his gift, and that, too, was passed without dissent. In addition, a joint resolution was unanimously agreed to directing the secretary of the navy to present to Commodore Dewey a sword of honor, and to have struck, in commemoration of the battle of Manila, a bronze medal for each of the officers and men who participated in the gallant fight. The resolution appropriates \$10,000 to enable the secretary to carry its provisions into effect.

President McKinley's message recommending a vote of thanks was as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:

On the 24th of April I directed the secretary of the navy to telegraph orders to Commodore George Dewey, of the United States navy, commanding the Asiatic squadron, then lying in the port of Hong Kong, to proceed forthwith to the Philippine Islands, there to commence operations and engage the Spanish fleet. Promptly obeying that order the United States squadron, consisting of the flagship Olympia, Baltimore, Raleigh, Boston, Concord and Petrel, with the revenue cutter McCulloch as an auxiliary dispatch boat, entered the harbor of Manila at daybreak on the 1st of May and immediately engaged the entire fleet of 11 ships, which were under the protection of the fire of the land forts. After a stubborn fight, in which the enemy suffered great loss, these vessels were destroyed or completely disabled and the water battery at Cavite silenced. Of our brave officers and men not one was lost and only eight injured and those slightly. All of our ships escaped any serious damage. By the 4th of May Commodore Dewey had taken possession of the naval station at Cavite, destroying the fortifications there and at the entrance of the bay and patrolling their garrisons. The waters of the bay are under his complete control. He has established hospitals within the American lines, where 250 of the Spanish sick and wounded are assisted and protected. The magnitude of this victory can hardly be measured by the ordinary standards of naval warfare. Outweighing any material advantage is the moral effect of this initial success. At this unsurpassed achievement the great heart of our nation throbs, not with boasting nor greed of conquest, but with deep gratitude that this triumph has come in a just cause and that by the grace of God an effective step has thus been taken toward the attainment of the wished-for peace. To those whose skill, courage and devotion have won the fight, to the gallant commander and the brave officers and men who aided him, our country owes an incalculable debt. Feelings of our people feel and speaking in their name I at once sent a message to Commodore Dewey, thanking him and his officers and men for their splendid achievement and overwhelming victory, and informing him that I had appointed him an acting rear admiral. I now recommend that, following our national precedents and expressing the fervent gratitude of every patriotic heart, the thanks of congress be given Rear Admiral George Dewey, of the United States navy, for highly distinguished conduct in conflict with the enemy and to the officers and men under his command for their gallantry in the destruction of the enemy's fleet and the capture of the enemy's fortification in the bay of Manila.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Executive Mansion, May 9, 1898.

The resolution adopted in response to the recommendation is as follows:

Joint resolution, tendering the thanks of congress to Commodore Dewey, U. S. N., and to the officers and men of the squadron under his command.

Resolved, By the senate and the house of representatives of the United States of America, in congress assembled, that in pursuance of the recommendation of the president made in accordance with the provisions of section 1508 of the revised statutes, the thanks of congress and of the American people are hereby tendered to Commodore George Dewey, U. S. N., commander-in-chief of the Asiatic station, for highly distinguished conduct in conflict with the enemy as displayed by him in the destruction of the Spanish fleet and batteries in the harbor of Manila, Philippine Islands, May 1, 1898.

Sec. 2 That the thanks of congress and of the American people are hereby extended through Commodore Dewey to the officers and men under his command for the gallantry and skill exhibited by them on that occasion.

Sec. 3 Be it further resolved, That the president of the United States be requested to cause this resolution to be communicated to Commodore Dewey and through him to the officers and men under his command.

Wheat Higher Than Ever.

CHICAGO, May 10.—The advance in wheat went on with renewed impetus yesterday. The Chicago May price—already so high—did not go up as much as on Saturday. The opening sale was \$1.75. The July price, however, was up nearly 14 cents, to \$1.20, and September wheat, which has been lagging behind, sold at 94 cents, a rise of seven cents since Saturday.

The Elms Hotel Burned.

ST. LOUIS, May 10.—A special from Excelsior Springs, Mo., says: The Elms hotel, which had 500 rooms and was the finest country hostelry in the state, is in ruins as the result of a fire which started in the engine room. The Elms was built in 1880 at a cost of about \$200,000.

NONE MORE PATRIOTIC.

Men Who Wore the Gray Eager to Defend the Flag They Once Tried to Destroy.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Reports reaching here from the south show that the appointment of ex-Confederate Generals Lee and Wheeler to be major generals in the volunteer army is resulting in cordial commendation of President McKinley's course in this high recognition of representative men of that great southern army which fought against him and the union which he now represents. The cordiality with which the hands of the president and his associates are being upheld by the south in this crisis shows better than ever before how completely sectional lines and the spirit of the contest of 1861-5 have been merged into the common cause of loyalty to the nation. From every part of the south Secretary Gage is receiving assurances that the people and the financial institutions will come promptly and earnestly to the support of the administration in the raising of funds to carry on the war. From every state of the south came prompt responses to the call for troops and that call was preceded by frequent and earnest appeals by men who had served in the confederate army to be permitted to raise companies and battalions and regiments of men who wore the gray to join in the common defense of the nation.

WOODFORD BACK HOME.

United States Minister to Madrid Calls on President McKinley—and Reports the Situation—The Mob Incident.

WASHINGTON, May 9.—Gen. Stewart L. Woodford, United States minister to Spain, arrived in Washington from New York last night. He went almost directly to the white house, where he was given a most cordial reception by the president. He remained in conference with the president until a late hour, the entire Hispano-American situation being informally and thoroughly discussed. Mr. Sickles, first secretary of the legation, when informed that cable dispatches had stated that the train on which the members of the legation had come from Madrid to Paris had been attacked by a mob and that stones had been thrown at the party, said:

Well, some things were thrown at the train, but the demonstration was not of a serious character. A number of students, not a large number, had gathered at Valladolid and cried "Long live Spain," and a few other patriotic cries. They were not directed against us particularly. I assure you, but were the result of a patriotic feeling on their part. A few windows in one of the cars next to the party were broken, but none of us was injured, no one at all was hurt. While at Madrid, we were treated with the utmost courtesy.

THEY FAVOR ANNEXATION.

Majority of Prominent Porto Ricans Want to Be Under United States Dominion—Fear an Independent Republic.

NEW YORK, May 9.—The Herald says: Members of the Porto Rico revolutionary junta in this city have received advices from the West Indies stating that the natives of Porto Rico have risen at Junica and Balamar, and that, upon the arrival of the United States fleet 70,000 men will take the field against Spain. Robert H. Todd, the secretary of the junta, said last night:

The Porto Ricans have only been waiting for a favorable opportunity to throw off the yoke of Spain. Personally I am in favor of the independence of the island, but the majority of merchants and planters, to my knowledge, prefer annexation to the United States. They fear an independent republic would soon become like Hayti and San Domingo, and assert that the property interests of the island would be safer if under the wing of this country.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEWEY.

The McCulloch Returns to Manila from Hong Kong with Urgent Dispatches from Washington.

HONG KONG, May 9.—The United States gunboat Hugh McCulloch, which arrived here Friday with dispatches from Adm. Dewey, officially announcing his great victory over the Spanish, left here yesterday afternoon on her return to Manila, after, it is understood, receiving many urgent dispatches from Washington. According to reports current here, the American admiral will insist, by force if necessary, upon the Spaniards accepting at least a temporary protectorate of the United States, the desire being, it is alleged, to avoid disturbing the present administration, as it is pointed out the insurgents of the Philippine islands are quite unfit to participate in their government.

DICTATORSHIP FOR SPAIN.

It Must Come to Contend Against the Spreading Disturbances—Campos May Be at the Head.

HENDAYE, France, May 9.—Advices which have just reached here from Madrid by mail in order to escape the Spanish censor say the general opinion in Madrid is that a military dictatorship is coming in order to contend against the spreading disturbances arising from hunger, the defeat of the Spanish fleet at Manila and the political plots of various descriptions. It added that Marshal Martinez de Campos, the former captain general of Cuba, probably will be the head of the dictatorship, and that he will be supported by a cabinet composed in the main of military men, as the last chance of saving the dynasty.

IS A MYSTERY.

Whereabouts of the Spanish Fleet Not Known to Adm. Sampson.

President McKinley and His Cabinet Decide to Wage Vigorous Warfare on All Spanish Possessions—Will Not Rely on Insurgents.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—There is the best authority for the statement that, yesterday having passed without a report from Adm. Sampson, the navy department does not expect to hear from him within several days. The authority for this statement is an official fully acquainted with Adm. Sampson's plans, and the remark would seem to indicate that the admiral, having failed to find the enemy at the place expected, had turned his attention to the alternative project. What this is cannot be ascertained. It is evident, however, that the department is under no apprehension as to the safety of the American fleet, nor of any vessel of the fleet. It is now officially admitted that Adm. Sampson was with his fleet near Cape Haytien, on the north coast of Santo Domingo, and distance about a day's run from Porto Rico. So far no reports have come to the department of any of the lurid engagements that are said to have taken place in those waters, but it is believed at the department that, if there was gun firing, as reported by merchant vessels, it probably was caused by some of the United States vessels chasing either prizes or the small Spanish gunboats that are believed to be cruising around in those waters. From the expectation so plainly manifested at the navy department that something is to happen soon, it is surmised that, if Sampson does not strike the Spanish flying squadron, he may strike a blow at Porto Rico itself. It is a curious fact that, thus far, the navy department does not know positively where the Spanish fleet is, and it is just possible that the vessels may be away over on the other side of the Atlantic or at Cadiz, instead of being in Sampson's neighborhood in the West Indies.

A CHANGE IN THE WAR POLICY.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—President McKinley and his cabinet at the special war council held yesterday decided upon several important changes in war policies. Gen. Merriam is to go to the head of the Philippine relief corps and Gen. Shafter, Wade, Coppinger and Lee will be among the first to land in Cuba. The latest war plans of the cabinet meet the approval of the war and naval boards of strategy, because action is promised on both land and sea. As now suggested by the orders given and being carried out the president proposes:

First—To annihilate the Spanish navy on the Atlantic, even if it is necessary to cross the sea.

Second—To begin at once the land movement against Cuba with a force so large that the fall of Havana and the complete surrender of Spanish rule in the island is assured before the rainy season.

Third—To back up Adm. Dewey with men and arms sufficient to subjugate all the Spanish in the various groups of the Philippines and to do these several things regardless of the money and men they may require.

Fourth—To provide for the military occupation of all the islands captured from Spain and to hold them by force of arms until their disposition has been decided by congress, after the war is at an end.

The determination to send a big army into Cuba, which is an entire change of plans, is due to the reports just received from the special agents sent by Gen. Miles to the insurgents. These show that the United States cannot rely upon the insurgent army to whip the Spaniards. The insurgents are poorly armed and just now are suffering for food. It is the absolute knowledge of all these which caused such a decided change in the plans heretofore mapped out. There may be delay, but it will not be prolonged. By the latter part of the week, the regulars will be moving and within two weeks they will be joined by the volunteers ordered to mobilize at Chickamauga.

INVADING ARMY TO CUBA.

WASHINGTON, May 10.—Orders were issued yesterday for the immediate mobilization of the volunteer army. This is a sudden change from the original programme of the war department, as it was intended to muster the troops in at once and drill them at home for some weeks prior to ordering them to the points of mobilization. At a consultation held at Secretary Alger's residence it was decided to send an invading force consisting of 66,000 men to Cuba at once. This sudden change of plans of the war department necessitated calling out the volunteer army immediately and the orders were issued yesterday. The troops at Chickamauga will be the only ones which will see actual service in Cuba. Those ordered to the coast defense and Washington are not likely to go south, as their services are required in the great chain of coast defense reserves consisting of 52 regiments. It is stated at the war department that the regiment recruited at Kansas City will probably be ordered to Cuba by way of Chickamauga, as their record as the Third regiment of Missouri national guard is sufficient evidence that they will require but little additional drilling. The invading army will probably consist of two divisions, one to be commanded by Gen. Wade, the other by Gen. Fitzhugh Lee.