

BLANCO HEARS THE NEWS

CERVERA'S CRUSHING DEFEAT MAKES HIM WILD.

Attempts to Commit Suicide But Prevented By Members of His Staff—Havana Cast in Gloom on Learning the Truth.

Key West, Fla.——Special—According to advices received from Havana, Governor General Blanco threatened to commit suicide when he learned that Cervera's fleet was annihilated. Long before the gallant dash out of Santiago, he had lost half of his ability to outwit the Americans, and when misleading dispatches gave the impression that he had eluded the American fleet, the demonstrations of joy in Havana partook of the nature of a funeral.

When the news of the defeat came out it was discredited until final confirmation from Madrid left no room for hope. Gloom fell over the city, public and private buildings were hung with flags. Blanco was in the palace when the intelligence reached him and he became almost frenzied.

He was closeted with his staff and General Arolas of the Spanish forces, discussing what he made of his life. After a struggle he was subdued, but the shock was so severe that he was prostrated to his bed, unable to keep to his first order to procure any food supplies leaving the city for interior towns.

THIS IS ANOTHER BLANCO.

This and other valuable information was brought by Jose Viquain, who informed of the reported suggestion of kinship to the governor general. He says he is a loyal Cuban and escaped to avoid the necessity of fighting against his country, never having been able to bring arms in being impressed into the Spanish service. He obtained a fisherman's permit to leave out of Santiago and at 6 o'clock Monday morning put off in a small boat. The Spaniard put ashore six miles out and he rowed to her, the Cojinas batteries east of Havana firing two shots when he was observed passing beyond the northern shore. The boat transferred him to another vessel and he was brought home where the local junta will care for him. The sailors of two American ships made up a liberal money subscription for him and gave him some new clothing.

CAIMENES IN HAVANA.

Blanco says the living conditions in Havana are constantly growing worse the greatest distress necessarily falling on the Cubans, because little food is seized for the troops. Of those there are now 70,000 in the city, consisting of volunteers, mobilized troops militia and regulars. Their rations are largely rice and beans without bacon jerked of a few days ago. A barrel of bread of a centavo and rice 50 cents, hard bread 25 cents and rice 50 cents. Starvation is eagerly sought, and the day before Blanco left the city on a search in the harbor for \$130. The result was that who have sufficient influence with the dispensing authorities sometimes contrive to get one wretched meal a day, but the others starve, and it is not uncommon the to see persons drop dead in the street.

Evening OCCUPIED.

Positions for new batteries were selected by General Randolph's chief of staff, and the artillery in position was inspected. The village of Caimenes, a suburb of Havana, occupied by Spanish troops on Monday. General Tora has evidently withdrawn the greater part of his forces into the city proper for the purpose of resisting the main attack from trenches in the streets and from loopholed buildings.

The last act of General Shafter before the arrival of General Miles was to demand the unconditional surrender of Santiago. He received no answer from the Spanish. Fighting will be resumed as soon as General Miles has looked over the ground. The Spanish have not yet attacked. The Americans do not attack because they fear foreign intervention.

The main blockhouse just outside the city has been destroyed. A 12-inch gun which the rebels were using has been captured and smashed to flinders. The Spanish fire was poor. Their shrapnel was old and useless and would not explode. It had evidently been in use for four years.

What might have proved a serious mistake was made by the First Illinois regiment upon its arrival at the rough roads, which took them to the enemy. They had discovered their error, however, before any damage was done.

Richard Harney, a New York sculptor, who went to El Paso to paint the scene of the battle, has now in the harbor, he says, the gunboats Conde Venadito, Marquesa de Sarmiento, Cuba, Pana, Filipinas and Nancio Pinzon, several of which are unfit for service.

WORKING ON DEFENSES.

Work on the defenses continues. Two lines of cables bearing torpedoes have been strung across the harbor from the city side to Morro castle, and the men have been busy in the bay of Mariel, where it was reported in Havana American troops are to be landed.

Spanish battery No. 6, east of Havana, has lately mounted six-inch guns in the extreme eastern side of the battery, commanding the coast line, and a few days ago sent two shots at the Mayflower, which had been cruising close to the harbor, and finally out of range. New masked batteries are also being built along the shore.

Blanco further reported that three weeks ago the Spanish steamer Montevideo and Santiago had crept out of the harbor at midnight with all lights out and safely got through the blockade. The Spanish ship now in the harbor, he says, are the gunboats Conde Venadito, Marquesa de Sarmiento, Cuba, Pana, Filipinas and Nancio Pinzon, several of which are unfit for service.

POOR DRUGS FURNISHED.

The guns have been removed from the Alfonso XII, and used for shore batteries and the crew has seen no variety of hospital ship. There are also in the harbor a number of smaller warships of the nature of the converted yachts, including the Flecha, Aguila Maslanda and two others. All these vessels except the Alfonso XII are about to move on short notice. The merchant steamers Josefina, Adola and Maria Herrera are also in the harbor.

THE DOOMED CITY.

Santiago Surrounded by American Troops.

With the Army here, Santiago (yesterday) was taken by surprise. The shape of a gigantic semicircle the American army extends around Santiago for eight miles and touches the bay on our side of the city. General Lawton's division on the extreme right of the army was pushed forward yesterday. It now practically rests on the shore of the bay west of Santiago. Our troops have occupied the western suburbs and are rapidly driving into the city itself. The Spanish fell back suddenly before our advance and retired without firing. The importance of strengthening General Lawton's position is now fully appreciated by all the commandments which are arriving are being sent to his aid. One of the first regiments ordered to the right wing was the Seventy-first of New York, which had been engaged in road building for seven months. It took a position on the El Caney road on the advanced line. The First Illinois regiment and the District of Columbia troops were also sent to the south of General Lawton. Some batteries which have just reached here have also been placed on the right. This is by far the best position for them, as the batteries may be so planted upon the hills as to command the greater part of the city and enfilade the Spanish trenches.

This massing of our troops on the right indicates that our final attack will be made there. The Spanish lines are undoubtedly intact at that point and the geography of the country is favorable for the advance of the American troops. Many of the advanced Spanish trenches have already been abandoned for the firing of our troops on Santiago and Spain made it too hot for the Spaniards. They were lying flat in the bottom of the ditches to escape the withering American fire.

From General Lawton's line a rear view of the Spanish lines may be obtained. Large ships ride at anchor, steamers lie at the piers and a torpedo boat at sea.

MARSHAL FOR DESTRUCTION.

Many of Cuban now with General Galvez were formerly residents of Santiago. They are familiar with the fortified buildings of the city, as well as the vulnerable nature of the walls.

Miss Alberta Scott of Cambridge, Mass., a descendant of being the first colored graduate and the first of her sex and race trained entirely in the schools of Massachusetts to be graduated this year from Radcliffe college.

Miss Emilie Wagner of Baltimore, formerly a student at the Peabody conservatory and a graduate of the Woman's college of music in New York, has given attention to an ice factory and an electric lighting plant. Both have been marked for destruction when the bombardment reopens.

THIRD NEBRASKA REGIMENT

PRIVATE MAHER ACQUITTED.

COL. BRYAN SWORN IN AND TAKES COMMAND.

Whole Regiment Passes in Review—All Companies Uniformed Except Two—Will Start for the South Next Week to Join Gen. Lee.

Since the water supply of the cut off by the American troops, there has supplied fresh water for it water, earnest until more artillery has been brought to the front. Preparations for the assault are retarded by the rains. Roads are deep with mud. General Miles still holds a half dozen ridges, the twelve miles from Siemion to the front.

The American troops are anxious to charge the trenches so that they can be taken and end this struggle with Mansfield. The soldiers have been told to leave a yellow fever in the wet trenches. There was a terrific rainstorm on Monday night, followed by a heavy downpour Tuesday and Wednesday night. The soldiers were devoting their efforts to getting into Small streams are swollen into rivers and the roads are almost impassable. The water is muddy and nearly all eyes of the path are treacherous. Getting to the front, what was comparatively easy, requires extraordinary efforts. Nevertheless men and horses uniformly dragged the guns forward after the storm ceased.

MULES STAMPEDED.

Mules and horses stampeded during the storm and the muleteers were collecting the frightened animals. The deluge filled the trenches and converted them into drainage ditches. Water was everywhere. The mules slept on the skin.

Our companies spent their most miserable day in Cuba yesterday. The drenching rain patterning continually upon the tents finally soaked through and streams of water cascaded upon the men, bedding and the slight shelter.

The Second battalion, commanded by Major J. H. McClay consists of companies A from Lincoln, L from Indianapolis, M from Holt County and H from St. Louis.

The Third battalion, in charge of Major C. F. Schramm, is made up of B from Cass County, F from Fremont, D from Omaha and I from Alma.

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