



War Is Declared.

Congress Issued Formal Declaration of War Monday, April 25

FIRST GUN FIRED APRIL 22, 11 P. M.

SOME VALUABLE PRIZES TAKEN—STATE FORCES MOBILIZING AT OLD FORT OMAHA.—DISPATCHES OF THE WEEK.

The congress of the United States made a formal declaration of war on Monday last, the resolution passing both houses without debate, or without a single dissenting vote, it being passed as a matter of fact, war having already been in operation for several days.

The fleet is closely investing the several seaport towns of Cuba, and no vessel is allowed to enter their ports. Many rich prizes have been captured by our fleet.

The following is the associated press dispatches as received by the NORTHWESTERN, showing the condition of affairs at the seat of war, from day to day.—by H G MCVICKER, night editor State Journal,

Special to the NORTHWESTERN.—Lincoln, Neb., Apr. 22 6 p. m.—President McKinley issued a proclamation to-day for authorizing the blockade of Havana.

Lincoln, Neb., April 23, 10: a. m.—President issued his proclamation blocking all ports of Cuba and fleet was ordered to Cuba waters to enforce proclamation.

Special to the NORTHWESTERN.—Lincoln, Neb., April 23, 12:00 m.—The North Atlantic Squadron is now at Cuba carrying out the proclamation of the President to blockade all Cuban ports and capture all Spanish vessels possible.

Special to the NORTHWESTERN.—Lincoln, Neb., Apr. 24 3 p. m.—Situation unchanged. Paris ship is safe, cannot be overtaken now.

Special to the NORTHWESTERN.—Lincoln, Neb., Apr. 25, 9 a. m. Rumored capture of the Alphonso XIII by the flag ship New York.

Lincoln Special, April 25, 6:20 p. m.—Congress has issued formal declaration of war. Blockade of Havana complete: Sampson asks permission to bombard the city.

Lincoln special, April 28th.—Fort and Batteries reduced to ruins, made so by bombardment began yesterday evening.

be exaggeration, known to have been loss of life however, firing lasted 20 minutes, American fleet comes out without a scratch: Shells from enemies batteries either fall short or go over head: Purpose of reducing fort said to be permanent to land 50 thousand troops.

BEST PRIZE OF ALL A Rain of Cold Lead.

SPANISH AUXILIARY CRUISER YIELDS TO INEVITABLE.

MANGROVE TAKES HER

From State Journal. Key West, April 26, 1:30 p. m.—The light house, Tender Mangrove puffed proudly into Key West harbor this morning with the richest prize of war thus far.

As the Panama carried two twelve pounders she could easily have annihilated the little Mangrove and as the latter came into harbor with her prize there was not a craft but that saluted her with rousing cheers.

The Mangrove under Lieutenant Commander Everett, was cruising along the Cuban coast shortly before 6 o'clock last evening, about twenty miles north of Havana.

When the first shot was fired the Mangrove was within a hundred yards of the Panama, and Lieutenant-Commander Everett shouted to the deck officer that if she did not surrender he would sink her.

The battleship Indiana had seen the capture and meanwhile drew up to the Mangrove, giving her a lusty cheer.

The Panama is of about 2,500 tons burden, and her passengers were mainly Spanish refugees flying from New York and other points in the United States to Havana.

FIRST BLOODSHED OF THE WAR ON CUBA'S COAST.

MANTANZAS BOMBARDED.

From State Journal. OFF MANTANZAS—April 27, 2 p. m.—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Mantanzas harbor this afternoon.

The engagement commenced at 12:57 and ceased at 1:15 p. m. The object of the attack was to prevent the completion of the earthworks at Punta Gorda.

A battery on the eastward end of the bay opened fire and was also shelled. About twelve eight-inch shots were fired from the eastern forts, but all fell short.

The ships left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries having been accomplished.

Rear Admiral Sampson, when asked if he was satisfied with the result, said: "Yes, I am: I expected to be." The half completed Spanish earthworks and battery were apparently all ploughed up by the shells.

The forts which were bombarded were on a long lying point and were considered merely earthwork. They did not make a good target, yet when the big guns were fired at the shortest range portions of the fort could be seen flying in the air at every shot.

The flagship returned to Havana and the Puritan and Cincinnati were left on the Mantanzas station.

ASHTON LOCAL NEWS.

W. M. Smelser went to Loup City Tuesday evening, to attend Masonic Lodge, returning on Wednesday's early train.

F. W. Schaupp's new house is going up rapidly under the management of Mr. Levi Schaupp as carpenter.

H. J. Holmes of Elba, was in town Thursday, in behalf of Allen Bro's Co.

Miss Emma Wilson, left Thursday morning for Wayne, where she will attend the State Normal School.

Mr. Chas. Beushousen completed his term of school in the Miller Dist. Friday last. Charles seems to have good success as a teacher.

Miss Smalljohn of Bohas, was here Wednesday, soliciting for "Story

of Cuba," and from reports had fairly good success in interesting our people in the book.

E. G. Taylor was seen walking with a cane Friday, and Saturday morning he resorted to crutches, the cause being a very badly sprained ankle.

Miss Maud Beliel, went home and spent Saturday and Sunday, her sister Blanch returning with her for a short visit.

Mrs. A. N. Conklin is reported as being on the sick list.

Chas. Beushousen went to Grand Island Saturday. Failed to learn when he expects to return.

Mr. Springer, of North Loup, was in town Sunday.

E. G. Taylor moved into the house known as the Bly property, Monday, of which he is the owner.

Emil Beushousen, drove to St. Paul, Saturday.

Frank Hanson alia Rubber Neck, is on the sick list.

A terrific explosion!!! Friday evening in the early twilight. A terrible explosion occurred in the southern suburbs of our city, and upon examination found that L. A. Wilson had cut his bicycle tire nearly in twain, and it burst with a loud report.

C. C. Miles was seen moving into the house formerly occupied by E. G. Taylor, on Monday last.

Rev. Alfred Snowden delivered a very able sermon on "obedience" at the Presbyterian Church on Sunday evening.

A fish weighing 12 pounds, avoirdupois, was taken from Oak Creek, last Saturday. The captor began to think that he had hooked a whale, or snagged the bottom of the creek.

E. G. Taylor is building a new barn on the sight of his new home.

More bicycles—two more new ones this week, Mendyk and Gappa being the two latest purchasers. J. E. Conklin bought the gents wheel sent C. H. Thode. Four more orders are still out, still they join the rank and file. Some one claimed the other day that cycling was going out of fashion, and we would like to introduce that party to the Ashton cycling fraternity.

Mr. J. P. Taylor left for St. Paul, on the passenger train Tuesday.

Mr. H. and W. M. Smelser went to Loup City Tuesday evening.

Ashton is quit worked up, almost to fever heat, over the war, and the number of people who never take a daily paper, who hasten to the train to secure the latest war news is amazing, and cries of Journal, Bee, and Herald, are heard every evening at the train.

I. C. U.

Burlington Route TIME TABLE. LOUP CITY, NEBR.

Table with columns for destinations (Lincoln, Omaha, Chicago, St. Joseph, Kansas City, St. Louis, East and South) and times for various train services (Passenger, Freight, Mixed).

U. P. RAILWAY. No. 96 leaves daily except Sunday (passenger) 7:30 a. m. No. 95 leaves Monday, Wednesday and Friday (mixed) 7:30 p. m.

PATENTS

C. A. SNOW & CO. Agents, Patent Office, Washington, D. C. Specialties: Chemical, Mechanical, Electrical, and all Patents.

EARLY FRENCH EXPLORERS.

The Work of Cartier, Champlain and Others in the Great Lakes.

W. S. Harwood writes in St. Nicholas of "The Great Lakes." Mr. Harwood says:

Jacques Cartier, who shipped from St. Malo in 1498, explored the coast of Newfoundland and made the circuit of the gulf of St. Lawrence, and he did much else, too, for New France in opening up negotiations with the many tribes of Indians who thronged thousands strong and friendly from all the regions in and about Quebec and Montreal and Ottawa and Kingston.

In 1618 Etienne Brule, an old interpreter, came into Champlain's camp with the news of the discovery of Lake Superior. Lake Erie, with Ontario, was probably discovered some time earlier than this.

But as these French explorers continued to develop new and hitherto undreamed of possibilities of empire the English began to take deep interest in the region—an interest little marked than that they were then taking in their schemes of colonization in Virginia and Massachusetts.

Entanglement followed entanglement, wars harassed the land, until at last the English were masters of the northern lake region for all time—unless some day we shall see the stars and stripes floating from the heights of Quebec.

IN NEW YORK'S EARLY DAYS.

The Bowery Was the Resort of Wealth, Beauty and Fashion.

"A pleasant picture occurs to me of a summer progress of the family of Governor Stuyvesant to and from the meeting house, for divine worship in the fort near the Battery, New York," writes Mrs. Burton Harrison in The Ladies' Home Journal, describing "When Fashion Graced the Bowery."

After service in the bare colonial church—where the dominie's sermon, however eloquent, was always brought to an end by three raps from the clerk's stick at the moment when the sands of the hourglass had announced that the preacher's limit of time had been reached—the Stuyvesant party passes out between rows of respectful gazers.

Sala's Last Article.

In The Windsor Magazine Mrs. Sala relates an incident about the last magazine article ever written by the late George Augustus Sala. "As I re-entered his study that afternoon," she writes, "he gave me over the three slips of a closely written MS. on dimmy foreign note paper and said: 'Take them, dearest. I am so tired I don't think I shall ever write another magazine article. Put the sheets in your dispatch box and finish them for me. When I am dead, you will perhaps want bread, and then you can sell 'Bedrooms on Wheels.'"

A Bright Bird.

The cuckoo is as likely to steal its nest as to make it, but this fact does not take from the point of the following pun, quoted from Short Stories:

A young Englishman being asked at dinner whether he would have some bird's nest pudding, said, turning to his hostess: "Ah, yes, bird's nest pudding, and what kind of a bird may have made it?"