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TRIUMPH IN PORTO RICO.

The circumstances connected with the capture of Ponce, in Porto Rico, give that affair a political importance which even transcends its military consequences, says the Globe-Democrat. The port of Ponce surrendered to Commander Davis, of the auxiliary gunboat Dixie, without any resistance, and the city, three miles inland, capitulated to Gen. Ernest. This puts the largest city in Porto Rico—for Ponce has more inhabitants than San Juan, the capital of the island—in American hands, gives us a virtual mastery of the whole southern coast of the island, and puts us in possession of a good highway leading to San Juan, seventy miles distant in a northeasterly direction. Over that road the heaviest artillery can be drawn with ease. The country between these two most important points in the island is exceedingly favorable for military operations.

This is the purely military side of the capture of Ponce. Its political side lies in the temper of the people toward our soldiers. "The populace received the troops and saluted the flag with wild enthusiasm," says Gen. Miles in his report. "The Porto Ricans," remarks the Associated Press dispatch, "are glad that the American troops have landed, and say they are all Americans and will join our army." It is clear from these expressions that the change of sovereignty for Porto Rico will give satisfaction to its people. The visit of the American troops has long been expected and is welcome. The Spaniards have always said, and all the other Europeans have thought, that Spanish rule has been agreeable to Porto Rico, but long before this war began Americans learned that the Spanish yoke was as burdensome in that island as it was elsewhere. The reason the Porto Ricans have raised fewer rebellions than the Cubans is that their island is smaller than that of their kindred to the westward, it is intersected in all directions by good roads, along which troops can pass quickly, and hence risings could be easily suppressed.

Porto Rico's political problems will be as readily solved as its military difficulties are being surmounted. The American military forces "re-lease you from your former political relations," says Gen. Miles in his proclamation to the inhabitants of Porto Rico, "and it is hoped this will be followed by your cheerful acceptance of the government of the United States." This aspiration will undoubtedly be gratified. The Porto Ricans, under American authority, will have such home rule as their needs demand, will be part of the greatest and most progressive nation on the earth, and will, for the first time in their lives, learn just what liberal government means. Thus the capitulation of Ponce is even more gratifying for what it foreshadows than for what it immediately brings. It indicates there will be very little resistance from the Spanish soldiers anywhere in the island and that, after Spanish authority is overthrown, the adjustment of the inhabitants to their new relations will be easy and pleasant. The enthusiastic welcome which the people of Porto Rico extend to the American troops will show the Spanish dynasty the necessity of immediately making peace on any terms which the United States offers.

THE PEACE TERMS.

Our government has done well to press its warlike movements while discussing peace terms with Spain. This is no time for weak wavering. Spain must not harbor the delusion that the United States is anxious for peace, or be led into the false belief that to gain peace this country stands ready to forego the just fruits of victory, says the Spokesman-Review.

If Spain will accept the terms now

offered, she may reclaim the Philippines, which constitute the greater part of her menaced colonies. In population they outnumber Cuba and Puerto Rico many times over, and in many ways they are of greater value to the Spanish nation. By yielding Cuba and Puerto Rico, and withdrawing her armies from those islands, Spain may be able to put down the Aguinaldo insurrection and re-establish her shattered sovereignty.

Indeed, there is reason to believe that in accepting the terms offered by this country, Spain will lose nothing which she would not soon have lost even if she had not gone to war with the United States. In attempting to hold all her rebellious colonies, Spain would have put all in jeopardy. Apart from the war with America, she had come to that point where wise statesmanship would have dictated that a part be yielded to make more secure the grasp on the remainder.

Perhaps all this is understood as well in Madrid as in Washington, but as a salve to wounded Spanish honor, the ministry considers it essential that the Spanish government should have the appearance of being a potential party to the peace negotiations. Its obvious purpose is to make it seem that the United States is accepting its proposals rather than have the masses of the Spanish people understand that the United States is dictating the settlement. Perhaps when all the facts come out it will be found that the difference between our terms and the Spanish counter-proposal is of minor importance.

OUR NAVY, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE.

Twice in history the American Navy has been the best and strongest in the world. It is now that again. It is by fighting demonstration the strongest in the world.

In the war of 1812-14 our seamen, with their live-oak ships, met and overcame the sea power even of Great Britain. At the end of the civil war we again had afloat the strongest navy in the world.

But our mechanical ingenuity had sowed the seed of revolution in naval construction. The Monitor and the Merrimac were father and mother to all modern naval machines of war. They created a new epoch.

Their exploits ended the career of the wooden warship. They compelled the creation of battle ships, armored cruisers and all the rest of it.

In this work of reconstruction we lagged behind for the best part of twenty years. Then we began in earnest, and in an incredibly brief time we have created a modern steel clad navy of the very first class, whose construction has required infinitely more of skill, mechanical ingenuity, inventive genius and thorough education in exact science than the building of all the old navies in the world required.

And for the fighting of such a navy like qualities of high education were necessary, in association with the indomitable courage of the officers and men who made the history of our old wooden navy so splendid a record of heroism. That requirement has been fully answered. For Hull and Lawrence and Perry we have Dewey and Schley and Sampson and Hobson.

We have met these requirements, and with the completion of plans already made, the navy of the great republic is the foremost and most formidable fighting force that ever floated upon any sea.

And best of all, its mission will be to command peace and compel justice and enforce everywhere the unalienable rights of men.—N. Y. World.

Statehood for none of our new conquests has been thought of yet, but the people of Porto Rico are getting themselves in training for it. They are showing an Americanism and an intelligence which are impressing the United States very favorably toward them. It is known, of course, that the proportion of whites to the total population is larger in Porto Rico than it is in Cuba or any other Spanish island, its per capita wealth is greater, and its percentage

of educated people is higher. After the Spaniards are driven out of the island a stream of emigrants to it from the United States is likely to set in, and its population will rapidly increase in the immediate future. Porto Rico will probably not remain in the crown colony status long. A full territorial government is reasonably certain to be given to that island before many years pass.

The Walla Walla Statesman announces the return of Ex-Governor Miles C. Moore, of Walla Walla, to Republicanism. Mr. Moore never was a silver man to hurt. He is a politician, however, in the fullest sense. Mr. Moore was at the head of Banker Ankeny's senatorial boom a few years ago, which was totally burst by the election of Hon. John L. Wilson, of Spokane, to that place. If the writer isn't badly mistaken, Mr. Moore will again endeavor to take a hand in Republican politics up in the state of Washington.

The talk about peace reminds the average American that we have not given the Spaniards half enough. They have "hollered" too soon, and now that they appear to be quibbling about peace, it would suit most people of this nation if all negotiations would cease and the war be resumed till the sight of an "Americano" would be enough for any Don on earth.

The Porto Ricans are doing their utmost to make General Miles feel perfectly at home. Instead of splicing and consuming his rations they are bringing in fresh meat and vegetables for his command. This speaks well for the Porto Ricans, and will be remembered.

With its eyes on America the London Spectator is inclined to think that "with good officers and an able staff, three months' instruction turns out men competent to fight great battles." The theory is sound if the men are United States volunteers.

The Dalles, always a splendid business point, will never lose her position in the race for trade. The Columbia is her commercial friend, and though the hand of man way attempt to stay the progress of our city, it will all come to naught.

Gen. Miles finds it difficult in Porto Rico to fill the demand for United States flags, and has telegraphed for a large supply. There is no doubt as to how the Porto Ricans would vote on the change of nationality.

The concert of Europe is behaving itself with becoming modesty in regard to the arrangement of peace between the United States and Spain, which is to say that the powers are looking on through a knothole in the fence.

Gen. Wood is disliked by some of the citizens of Santiago on account of his energy in cleaning up the town. The reason given will add to the General's popularity everywhere else.

The insurgents at Guantanamo Bay were of considerable assistance to the American marines, and the reason seems to have been that their leader is simply a Cuban patriot, without any desire to hold a cabinet office.

It is estimated from the present rate of receipts that the new war taxes will produce a revenue of \$175,000,000 a year. If peace comes soon the war debt will begin to melt away.

England has decided that its new battle-ships must be good for eighteen knots. The Americans are at their old business of revolutionizing the navies of the world.

Regardless of the immense wheat harvest; the price will doubtless start off at a figure above fifty cents per bushel.

If Spain will just keep the present war in progress six months longer she won't have a tub afloat.

E. C. Blanks, of Lewisville, Texas, writes that one box of DeWitt's Witch Hazel Salve is worth \$50 to him. It cured his piles of ten years standing. He advises others to try it. It also cures eczema, skin diseases and obstinate sores. For sale by the Snipes-Kinersly, Drug Company.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE FOREST FIRES

NEW FEDERAL LAW WILL BE ENFORCED.

Oregon to Be Protected Against Fall of Smoke, and Sheep Kept From the Reserve.

The department of the interior at Washington last summer published a notice calling the attention of the public to the fact that immense areas of public forests are annually destroyed by fire, originating, in many instances, through the carelessness of prospectors, campers, hunters, sheep-herders and others; while in many instances the fires are started with malicious intent.

Warning was given that the origin of all forest fires would be carefully investigated, and, where the fire is ascertained to have originated through carelessness or design, the persons implicated will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. The public generally was requested to aid the officers of the government in their effort to check the evils referred to and in the punishment of all such offenders.

The act of congress, approved February 24, 1897, provides that any person who willfully or maliciously sets fire to timber or underbrush on the public domain, or carelessly leaves fire to burn unattended near any timber or inflammable material, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or be imprisoned not more than two years, or both. Any person who builds a campfire, or other fire, in or near any forest, timber, or other inflammable material on the public domain, and fails before breaking camp or leaving said fire to totally extinguish the same, shall be fined not more than \$1000 or be imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

The fines collected shall be paid into the public school fund of the county in which the lands where the offense was committed are situated.

Capt. S. B. Ormsby, of Salem, was appointed forest supervisor for this state, and Mr. Dufur, superintendent for the northern district. They, with their gang of forest rangers, have been instructed by Binger Hermann, commissioner of the general land office, to make every effort to check the fires or punish the offenders.

The commissioner, mindful of the fact that the water supply of Portland would be greatly damaged if sheep were herded on the watershed of Bull Run lake and river, has instructed them to keep sheep out of all portions of the Bull Run reserve and that portion of the Cascade reserve north of the Barlow road and west of the east fork of Hood River.

Between the Barlow road and the east fork, the boundary line extends from the point where the road crosses Summit creek northeasterly about six miles to the east of the east fork of Hood river. Capt. Ormsby has recently had this line marked by blazes on the trees, two or three rods apart. He will be very careful to prevent any roaming sheep-herder with his flock from trespassing within the limits described.

FROM A MANILA LETTER.

D. C. Allard, Formerly of Boyd, Writes to His Mother.

The following extracts are from a letter written by D. C. Allard, who was formerly a teacher at Boyd, to his mother at Troutdale. Mr. Allard is a member of company L, and the letter was written at Manila:

"The boys who went ashore in small boats and captured the Ladrone were wet to the skin by the rain storm. All the officers went ashore and brought back lots of fruit. The islands are covered with tropical vegetation, even more than the Hawaiian islands. Life on board ship is very monotonous, and quarters are so cramped. Everybody was vaccinated, and I have been very sick from the effects of mine, and still have a very bad arm. A good many are having the measles.

"It was terribly rough on the China sea, and even after thirty-seven days on ship many of the boys were sick again.

A good many natives visited the boat this morning here in Manila harbor, with vegetables, fruit, eggs and poultry to sell, but as our pocketbooks are very nearly empty, no rushing business is being done.

"The islands here seem to be very mountainous, though there is much level land. Manila looks beautiful from here, five miles distant. The weather is very warm, though it rains every day.

After leaving Honolulu we had only two meals a day, with coffee in the morning at 7. Perhaps that accounts for the ill-health on board."

Buckley's Arnica Salve.

The best salve in the world for cuts, bruises, sores, ulcers, salt rheum, fever sores, tetter, chapped hands, chilblains, corns, and all skin eruptions, and positively cures piles, or no pay required. It is guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, or money refunded. Price 25 cents per box. For sale by Blakeley and Houghton, druggists.

SUNDAY AT THE CASCADES.

Dalles Visitors Are Entertained Royally, Where Are All the Requisites for a First-Class War.

A large number of Dallesites visited the campers at Cascades Sunday, and to say that they escaped the heat does not put it forcible enough. No doubt the young man who reached there at 5 o'clock, clad in a linen suit, could give some pointers as to the change in temperature.

As the morning train reached there, they were met by Miss Sampson, who greets every visitor from home cordially. She escorted them to Camp Sampson, and after being served with a lunch which tasted as only lunches at camp can, the Regulator and locks were yielded.

After dinner, there being a number of musicians in the crowd, a concert was enjoyed. Mr. Comini being present, entertained the party with a number of his Italian selections, the "Sweet Potato" being among them.

The boys and girls later on took a walk through the beautiful woods surrounding the camp, and no prettier walk can be found. Of course they returned fairly starved and ready to devour everything in sight, which they did when supper was served. The event of the visit was the camp-fire in the evening, around which the young men in summer costumes gathered gratefully, and, strange to say, the girls were near by. The air was filled with the melodies which arose from camp that evening, among which were some solos by Miss Maie Cushing, and a number of German songs by Arthur Clarke.

The campers there claim they lack only the Spaniards to have a veritable outfit for a first-class war. The principal part of the affray being minus, however, they have not as yet declared war. There may be found Camps "Sampson" and "Dewey;" also the Philippines—C. L. Phillips and wife,—a Fleet, from the Locks, often seen in their vicinity; then, too, they are supplied with Sargeants, while Hobson was in their midst Sunday. In spite of these facts, all is "peaceful along the Columbia" we judge from the fact that the following items have just been received from there, with no hint of a disturbance:

Mr. Butte spent Sunday at Camp Dewey.

Mrs. Marden, of The Dalles, is visiting Mrs. Morgan.

Bert Barrett, of Camp Orner, Stevenson, Wash., spent Monday at Camp Sampson.

Mrs. Seabrooke, of Portland, is a guest of her sister, Mrs. Brown, at the government headquarters.

Mrs. Barrett chaperoned a crowd of young ladies from Camps Sampson and Dewey to the dance at Levans' Hall last

Saturday night. They had a very delightful time.

Miss Morgan, who has been a guest of Miss Sargent at Maple Dell, returned to The Dalles Monday.

Misses Minnie and Winnie Williams, of Portland, are the guests of their grandmother, Mrs. Atwell.

Bob Teague and wife and Louie Fritz and wife, of The Dalles, have a very pleasant camp on Dry Creek.

Mr. Barnett, of The Dalles, passed through the Locks Sunday on his way to The Dalles after visiting Camp Homahoma.

Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Barrett, of The Dalles, joined Camp Sampson Thursday of last week. Mrs. Barrett is now helping to chaperone the many young ladies visiting that camp.

Visitors at Camp Sampson Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Crandall, Mr. and Mrs. Tolmie, Mr. and Mrs. Hobson, Mesdames Morgan, Marden and Burgett, Misses Annette Michell, Henderson, Rawson, Fisher, Winnie Williams, of Portland, Delia Michelbach, Arthur Clarke, Victor Sampson, Chas. and Roy Burgett, Paul Paulsen, Harry Clough, Mr. Fleet, of the Locks. Visitors at the Philippines—Mr. and Mrs. Cushing, Mrs. Lyle Misses Cushing, Mattie Cushing, Sybil Cushing, Alice Lyle, Mr. Moore, John Weigle and Mr. Parkins.

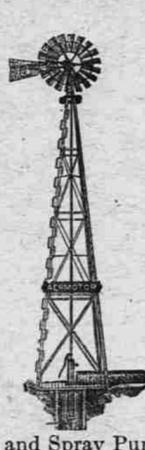
The Weather.

Sunday the thermometer deigned to step down a few degrees from its high and lofty throne, and the people appreciated the condescension. Toward evening it was delightfully cool and faces which had worn a woe-begone expression brightened up and looked smiling. Visitors at the Locks Sunday say that it was quite cool all day, and almost uncomfortably cool in the evening, the campfire at camp Sampson being not amiss. At Walla Walla the thermometer stood at 106 in the shade, but here it was a number of degrees cooler than the previous day, showing that the cool wave, which made the temperature in Portland 68, is coming this way.

Yesterday it was 96 during the heat of the day, cooling off toward evening, and threatening a thunder shower, which, had it made its appearance, would have been very welcome.

The forecasts made Saturday by the local weather bureau were fully verified Sunday in Western Oregon, but failed to connect this side of the mountains. It is predicted that next Wednesday and Thursday will be very warm, but let us not cross the bridge before we reach it, and hope that Pague is again mistaken as to Eastern Oregon.

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Aermotor Windmills.

We have lately taken the agency for the Aermotor Windmill, and carry a stock on hand.

We also carry a complete stock of Deep and Shallow Well Pumps, as well as Pitcher Spout and Spray Pump. Call and see us before buying elsewhere.

The Aermotor Mill is considered the best machine on the market. Call and see it.

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