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EVENTS OF THE DAY

Epitome of the Telegraphic News of the World.

TERSE TICKETS FROM THE WIRES

An interesting collection of items from the two hemispheres presented in a condensed form.

Vice-President Hobart is slowly improving.

All hope of reconvening the joint American-Canadian commission in August has been abandoned.

The Chinese legation at Washington protests against the restriction of Chinese immigrants to Cuba.

Acting-Secretary Melickjohn has decided that the Chinese exclusion act does not apply to our new possessions.

Newest trusts: Window glass, \$30,000,000, will control 90 per cent of the product; plow manufacturers, \$65,000,000.

In spite of precautionary measures virulent smallpox is spreading in Germany. The disease was imported into the country by Russian laborers.

The Algerites regard the beef report as a complete vindication, and are happy; General Miles refuses to talk; congress may make another investigation next fall.

Ex-President Harrison is on his way to France as counsel for Venezuela in its boundary dispute. Ex-Secretary of the Navy B. F. Tracy is associate counsel, and may accompany him.

Governor Thomas, of Colorado, has wired Adjutant-General Corbin as follows: "The reported interview of mine in the Denver News concerning the Colorado volunteers is false and malicious."

Rioters attempted to blow up a West Duluth street car with dynamite. There were 10 passengers in the car and they all received slight bruises. The car was thrown violently on its side, and its trucks were blown to pieces.

The beef-packers are bringing tremendous pressure to bear on the president to remove General Miles from command of the army in spite of the closing recommendation of the Wade beef court that no further action be taken.

At Jamestown, O., Postmaster George A. McLaughlin, with some boy friends, was putting a "tick-tack" on a window at the home of his friend, E. E. Ginn. Mr. Ginn fired a shot through the window, killing McLaughlin instantly.

An Adelaide, South Australia, dispatch says: The British ship Loch Sloy, Captain Nicol, from Clyde on January 5, for Adelaide and Melbourne, was wrecked on Kangaroo island, April 24. Five passengers and 25 of the crew were drowned.

Several negroes were killed in a storm which swept over chambers county, Georgia.

At a fire in Massillon, O., one fireman was killed and a workman fatally injured.

The president and Mrs. McKinley have gone to Hot Springs, Va., for a 10 days' vacation.

Fifteen cases of disease in Leola, Ia., have been identified by officers of the state board of health as smallpox. The Davenport council has declared a quarantine against Leola.

The Topeka Capital has started a popular subscription to purchase a sword for General Funston, the brave Kansan. Every county, town and city in the state is asked to contribute.

George Olmstead, conductor of the train the Gardner rioters stole, has been arrested. He ran between Wallace and Burke for years, yet persists he did not recognize any of the crowd.

At Doniphan, Kan., District Judge Stuart refused to grant a divorce to Ellen Phillips from P. O. Phillips, because their marriage was brought about by an advertisement in a matrimonial paper.

Major Marchand, leader of the famous Marchand expedition, which was returning from Fashoda, on the Nile, to the Red sea, en route to France, is reported to have been killed by a band of marauders.

The Missouri house has passed and sent to the governor an important bill requiring Missouri corporations to keep their principal office in the state, and providing that at least three directors shall be residents of Missouri.

Governor Stanley, of Kansas, has addressed to the governors of Western states pressing invitations to attend the annual convention of the trans-Mississippi commercial congress, which will be held in Wichita, May 31 to June 3, inclusive.

Representatives of more than a score of the leading plow manufacturing concerns of the United States met in Chicago, and virtually completed organization into which it is proposed ultimately to take all manufacturers of agricultural implements. The capitalization of the new combination is placed at over \$65,000,000.

Minor News Items.
It will take 46,000 men next year to handle the United States census.

Work on a plant which is expected to age whisky in 24 hours has been commenced at Louisville, Ky.

The farm on which Abraham Lincoln was born, which lies two miles south of Hodgenville, Ky., has been sold to David Gear, of New York city, and it is very probable that the farm will be converted into a park.

LATER NEWS.

Because he refused to buy drinks a Chicago janitor was killed by thugs in a saloon.

Long Island is soon to have an industrial colony made up of negroes from the South.

Claims aggregating millions have been filed for indemnity in Cuba by Great Britain, France and Germany.

Miss Winnie Holmes, of Kent, Wash., was drowned in the Sound. She was crossing from Kent to Des Moines with another young lady and two young men, in a rowboat, which capsized.

A naval expedition will be sent from Manila to the island of Mindanao to relieve the Spanish forces at Zamboanga, reported to be besieged by a strong force of insurgents, if the report current in Manila and sent by Otis to Washington is verified.

A freight train of the Southern Pacific was wrecked in Cow Creek canyon, Southern Oregon. The engineer, James McCalley, was killed and the fireman, James Morrison, seriously injured. The wreck was caused by a heavy engine spreading the rails.

Dr. Charles A. Briggs, who was suspended for heresy by the Presbyterian assembly, was ordained a priest of the Episcopal church in New York. He was ordained together with the Rev. Charles A. Snedeker, and the ordination ceremonies were conducted by Bishop Potter.

At Minneapolis, one of the largest gatherings ever seen in this city adopted resolutions in sympathy with the administration of affairs in connection with the Philippines. The names of President McKinley and Dewey were cheered to the echo several times during the afternoon.

The Standard Bank, Downmanville, 54 miles from Toronto, was robbed of \$11,000 of the bank's money, and a quantity of valuables entrusted to the bank for safe keeping by private citizens. Before attacking the bank the robbers went to the police station and overpowered Henry Metcalf, the man in charge. They blindfolded and gagged him and took him with them while they entered the bank. Then they locked Metcalf up in the station and left.

The latest reports from Oregon orchardists confirm the statement made last week that the prune crop will be practically a failure this season. The prunes continue to fall from the trees. Many orchardists are disposed to take a cheerful view of the situation, and say that with all conditions favorable only a short crop could have been expected, for the trees bore so heavily last year that they needed a rest. With one season's rest and consequent growth, it is said, a full crop should be realized next year.

The Finns are fleeing to this country at the rate of 500 weekly to escape Russian military service.

At a test at Sandy Hook proving ground it was found that wet gunpowder could be safely used in a shell fired by powder.

Domarais, a Frenchman, who had entered the rebel lines to negotiate for the release of Spanish prisoners, is said to have just been assassinated by insurgent soldiers.

Every postoffice in the island of Porto Rico, about 80 in number, soon will be flying a United States flag. Flags will be bought by the postoffice department and forwarded to Director of Posts Elliott.

Captain Barker, the senior officer of Dewey's fleet and the commander of the battleship Oregon, will be the next commanding officer to come home. His place will be filled by Captain Wilde, of Boston.

According to a dispatch from Cairo to the Daily Mail, the director of the Egyptian museum has discovered the mummy of Thothmes I, of the 18th dynasty, B. C. 1633, and three other mummies in gilt coffins.

La Patria, one of the best edited papers in Havana, has come out with an editorial strongly indorsing the American administration. Its utterances are regarded as representing the best thinking element of the community.

Capt. J. Mason, of Philadelphia, the well-known commander of the Munson line steamship Vimora, fell from his vessel into the water while passing close to the Bahama islands and was swallowed by a shark.

The war department is preparing to send four regiments of regulars to Manila, via New York and the Suez canal, in the transports Thomas, Meade and Logan, which are to be permanently transferred from the Atlantic to the Pacific fleet.

If the inhabitants of the San Fernando region are to be believed, there is little sympathy with the insurrection in that quarter. Before evacuating the city, the rebels burned the church and the public buildings, and looted the Chinese quarters. They drove many rich Filipinos, with their families, out of the city before them, as well as hundreds of Chinese, to prevent them helping the Americans. They cut the throats of many. Many Chinese hid on roof-tops or in cellars, and some escaped by cutting off their queues. There are 60 fresh graves in the churchyard.

The international Sunday school convention has decided to hold the next meeting at Denver in 1902.

One American company in the last 60 days has received orders for 48 steam and gas engines, and they will be shipped to 19 different countries.

The military papers in Vienna announce the invention of a 15-barreled quick-firing rifle, carrying 18 cartridges at a time and firing 45 per minute.

FORCE THE FIGHTING

Otis Ordered to Capture or Kill Every Rebel.

M'KINLEY CABLES INSTRUCTIONS

His Orders Are, If Necessary, to Penetrate Far Into the Interior.

Hot Springs, Va., May 18.—This is the gist of a long cipher cable sent by President McKinley today to General Otis at Manila:

"Force the fighting. Penetrate far into the interior and capture or destroy every warring Filipino."

It was prompted by several dispatches from General Otis, transmitted by Secretary Alger, which greatly encouraged the president.

Timely Reinforcements.
Manila, May 18.—Although offered the presidency of the Filipino cabinet, Senator Paterno declines to accept it until the native congress, now in special session at San Isidro, authorizes him to treat for peace with the United States.

The arrival of the transport Hancock from San Francisco, with the Twenty-first infantry and a battery of the First artillery, is timely, as General MacArthur is in great need of reinforcements, as a result of the prolonged and arduous campaign.

Prominent Manila Filipinos have decided to publish a newspaper, the Democracia, to advocate peace.

Mr. Higgins, manager of the Manila-Dagupan railway, and two of his assistants, who had remained inside the insurgent line to take care of the property of the railway company, arrived at San Fernando yesterday. They had been informed by the insurgents that they would no longer be responsible for their safety if they remained longer within their lines. Mr. Higgins corroborated the stories that have been told of the demoralization of the Filipinos, and says the rebels are looting property. Mr. Higgins says now is the time for Americans to strike hard.

SPACE TELEGRAPHY.

Signal Corps Experiments With the Marconi System.

Washington, May 18.—General Greely today made the first authoritative statement as to the progress made in wireless telegraphy under the auspices of the United States signal corps. The important conclusion is reached by General Greely that the wireless system is not likely to supplement the ordinary method of telegraphic communications. The results so far obtained have been uncertain. General Greely's statement is as follows:

"Since the announcement of the tests in space telegraphy by Senator Marconi, two years ago, the subject has been under consideration by the signal corps of the army, and recently experiments have been begun, with the object of thoroughly testing the value of this means of communication for military and other governmental purposes. Special apparatus has been designed and constructed for these tests, which have already shown sufficient promise to warrant further systematic trials.

"During the experiments constant communication by heliograph and flag between the transmitting and receiving stations has been kept up by the trained men of the regular signal corps, and this has greatly facilitated the work of experimenting. Signals, letters and words have been transmitted and received between these stations, but the great delicacy and constant adjustment required in the present receiver have made the transmission of regular messages as yet unreliable and uncertain. The presence of large buildings and large masses of iron and metal, necessarily present in cities, makes such places undesirable for carrying on experiments of this character. The distance over which signals may be transmitted by a given apparatus is a function of the height of the vertical wire used in either end, and this has naturally suggested the use of small gas balloons, such as have already been used for signal and other purposes by the signal corps. A supply of these balloons has been obtained, and will be used for this purpose in the near future.

"That there is a field of usefulness for space telegraphy is undoubted, but that it will supplant to a material extent the use of wire for ordinary commercial telegraphy is not believed. For connection between lighthouses and lightships at sea and to replace ordinary flag methods in use between naval vessels it should prove invaluable, since no kind of weather, nor fog, darkness or storm, avail to affect its use."

Starvation on Ashcroft Trail.
Victoria, B. C., May 6.—A mail-carrier has arrived from the Upper Stikkeen river after making a hazardous tour over crumbling ice to get relief for prospectors who are starving at Deese Lake, on the Ashcroft trail. He reports that they have eaten all their supplies and horses and are living on mules and dogs.

A Family Tragedy.
Auburn, N. Y., May 18.—The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tinknell were found in their rooms today. The man was dead, without a mark upon him. The woman was unconscious, with the side of her head battered in, and the brain protruding. She was taken to the hospital, but cannot live. It is supposed her husband tried to kill her with a hammer, and then to wind up his horrible butchery he committed suicide.

WHOLESALE MURDER.

Man Kills Two Women, Two Men, a Child and Shoots Himself.

Howard City, Mich., May 18.—Thos. Harvey last night killed his wife, his uncle, Robert Pierson, and his grandmother, and mortally wounded his 3-month-old child, and his father-in-law, John Logenslayer, and finally shot himself, inflicting a wound which is expected to prove fatal. Harvey's uncle and grandmother live one mile north of town. The murderer went there last evening.

It transpires that Harvey, on reaching the home of his mother-in-law, said nothing about his terrible acts at Pierson's home. He offered to sit up by the corpse of his wife's mother. Accordingly the others retired. It was 4 o'clock in the morning when Harvey went to his wife's room and killed her, and attempted to slay his baby and his father-in-law. He also fired at Miss Labard, but without effect. Harvey's wound is serious, but he is certain to recover. He was employed in a furniture factory, and is only 20 years of age. The cause of his terrible acts has not been determined. He asserted that Pierson, his uncle, was quarrelling with his grandmother, and he interfered; that thereupon Pierson stabbed and killed the old lady, aged 70, and that he (Harvey) retaliated by shooting his uncle. After shooting Pierson, Harvey stabbed him three times. Harvey then returned to his home, two miles southwest of town. Arriving there, he shot his wife twice. Pierson's home presents a horrible appearance. Pierson's body was found in a chair, and that of the old lady on the floor clad in her night dress. There are signs of a desperate struggle between Harvey and his grandmother, but no indication of any fight between the two men. Harvey himself today informed the sheriff of the murders at Pierson's house. He was then arrested for murdering his wife. He has nothing to say of the tragedy at his home. There are strong threats of lynching.

Word was at once sent to Reading, and a special train with physicians and nurses was sent to the scene as quickly as it could possibly be put in readiness.

The identified killed are: John Leaf, Montgomery county; William S. Shaw, Norristown; Colonel George Shaw, Norristown; Chief John Slingmuff, Norristown; John Johnston, Montclair; William Lewis, Norristown; Harry Hunchentger, Norristown; George H. Annis, Norristown; George Shover, Norristown; Harry Wentz, Norristown; Samuel Batty, Conshohocken; Harry Thompson, Norristown; Hiram Shelby, Hatboro; Benito Silva, Reading.

The injured number about 13.

BY THE SUEZ CANAL.

Admiral Dewey Selects His Homeward Route.

Washington, May 15.—"Send Olympia mail to B. F. Stevens, No. 4 Trafalgar Square, London, England," was the notice given out at the navy department today.

This is the first formal indication that the famous flagship is coming home immediately. Upon inquiry it was ascertained that Secretary Long last evening cabled Admiral Dewey permission to return at once to the United States. He has been relieved of the obligation of remaining at Manila until the Philippine commission completes its work. He is not even required to await the cessation of hostilities, but may start homeward at once. The notice posted at the navy department amounts to the information that the Olympia will not remain long enough to receive the next outward mail. The Mr. Stevens referred to is the navy department's agent at London to distribute all of the mail for United States warships in European waters, so he will see to it that the Olympia receives hers as soon as she passes the Suez canal.

FORTIFYING SAN FRANCISCO.

Defenses Being Strengthened by a Battery of Sixteen Guns.

San Francisco, May 15.—The defenses of this harbor are rapidly being strengthened. The work under way now is the mounting of the second battery of 16 mortars on the bluffs above and back of old Fort Winfield Scott. Eight of the huge pieces of ordnance are already in position, and the other are being mounted by men from the Third artillery. These mortars are considerably larger and more destructive than the battery of 16 that was mounted about three years ago. The new mortars are 13-inch steel, breech-loading weapons, throwing a shell weighing 1,000 pounds, while the others carry 800-pound shells. In addition to the mortars a 13-inch rifle and disappearing carriage of the newest model are ready for shipment from the East. A number of other big guns of modern type are finished or in process of construction, and will be placed in position around the entrance to the bay as soon as they are received here.

A Sash and Door Combined.

Chicago, May 15.—The 34 mills engaged in sash, door and blind manufacture in Chicago have combined and, on August 1 next, it is stated, will be taken over by a corporation, probably to be named the American Sash & Door Company, with a capital of \$6,000,000.

Caught by a Slide.

Shamokin, Pa., May 15.—Four men were instantly killed today by the slide of a portion of a large bank at Centuria. Several were badly injured. The four bodies recovered were so badly disfigured it was difficult to identify them. The accident occurred while a large number of Hungarians were slogging coal in the Centuria breaker. The bank of coal refuse, which towered high above, was seen to quiver and collapse, completely burying the workmen.

Set Fire to a Freight Car.

Baltimore, May 13.—Three men who were playing cards in a freight car set it on fire early this morning, and one of them, Clarence Kepler, of this city, was burned to death. William Alders was badly burned. He was a fugitive from the house of correction. The flames spread to the cotton warehouse of the Mount Vernon coal and dock mills, and caused \$50,000 damage.

Dover, Del., May 13.—Secretary of State Hughes today issued a certificate of incorporation to the Federal Sewer Pipe Company, of Akron, O. The capital of the company is placed at \$25,000,000.

REAR-END COLLISION

Many People Killed in a Wreck Near Reading.

LARGE NUMBER WERE INJURED

Four Cars Were Telescoped and the Victims Were Terribly Mangled.

Reading, Pa., May 15.—A collision of passenger trains occurred on the Philadelphia & Reading railroad at Exeter, about six miles south of this city, tonight, and a great number of people were killed and wounded. There is no telegraph office at Exeter, and details are therefore difficult to obtain at this writing. The number killed is variously stated to be from 25 to 30. Many are injured.

The regular express train from Pottsville for Philadelphia connected at the station in Reading with a train from Harrisburg which was crowded with excursionists, who had been to the state capital to witness the ceremonies in connection with the unveiling of the Harrisburg monument. Many of the Harrisburg passengers at Reading went aboard the Philadelphia express, but it being found that all could not be accommodated, it was decided to send an extra train to Philadelphia to run as the second section of the express. The extra train left 20 minutes later than the express.

TAKEN BY LAWTON.

San Ildefonso Falls Into the Hands of the Americans.

Manila, May 15.—General Lawton has captured San Ildefonso, nine miles north of Baliuag, which has been his base of operations. Although tremendously well fortified and defended by a large and desperate body of Filipinos, General Lawton's troops rushed the trenches and routed the enemy completely, with the loss of one American wounded.

Fresh troops are beginning to go to the front. Two battalions of the Seventeenth infantry (regulars), that had been holding the lines about the city of Manila, will join General MacArthur's division at San Fernando tomorrow, and one battalion of the same regiment will reinforce General Lawton's division near Bacolor. These troops will be replaced by the Twenty-first infantry regiment, which arrived from the United States on the transport Hancock yesterday.

Captain Grant, of the Utah battery, whose success in managing the army gunboats Laguna de Bay and Cavandonga has won him the sobriquet of "the Dewey of the army," has been put in command of the recently purchased Spanish gunboats, whose arms the insurgents captured. These vessels are now being prepared for operations on the rivers and along the coast. The arming of the gunboats is being pushed with all diligence.

Admiral Dewey will begin his return to America in the cruiser Olympia, via the Suez canal. The Olympia will be docked at Hong Kong.

Captain Barker will command the fleet from the flagship "Baltimore." Lieutenant Eberle is flag lieutenant. Captain Wilde, of the Boston, will command the Oregon. Captain Whiting leaves on the Boston for America, but will go to San Francisco.

EXECUTION OF BRANTON.

Hanged at Eugene for the Murder of John Linn.

Eugene, May 15.—Claude Branton was hanged today for the murder of John Linn.

Branton retired last night at 11 o'clock, after writing several letters. He slept well, and got up at the usual time this morning, but would not eat breakfast. Reverends Patterson and Handaker, of the Christian church, were admitted to the jail at 7 this morning, and remained to the end, praying and singing with the condemned.

At 8:30 his people were admitted to the jail door, and conversed with him a few moments. Sheriff Withers then read the warrant.

Branton left the cell at 10:45 under the charge of the sheriff and two deputies. He walked upon the scaffold unattended and took his place on the trap. When asked if he had anything to say, he replied he had but little.

In a firm voice he told those present that he did not want them to bear any ill-will against his people on his account. He asked for sympathy and prayers, and urged them to walk in God's way.

Sheriff Withers sprung the trap at 10:50, and 15 minutes later life was extinct, and the body was cut down. Not a hitch occurred in the whole proceedings, everything passing off as smoothly as possible. The body dropped five feet.

Before leaving the cell Branton bid good-bye to all around. He was perfectly calm.

Branton left several letters to be mailed, and gave a white tie to his brother and a Bible to his mother. All was done without a quiver of a muscle. He assisted the officers in tying his hands, and did all he could to help make a success of the execution.

About 60 people witnessed the execution, while a thousand or more stood in the street around the inclosure, but were quiet and orderly. The body was placed in a coffin and delivered to his people.

The crime for which Claude Branton paid the penalty of death was that of taking the life of John A. Linn, a stockman of Condon, Gilliam county, in June, 1898. Courtland Green is now serving a life sentence in the penitentiary for complicity in the crime.

The Philippine Congress.

London, May 15.—A special dispatch received here from Manila says that the Philippine congress now sitting at San Isidro is composed of 56 members, of whom 20 favor peace, and an equal number are irreconcilable. The others, holding the balance of power, are ready to admit that absolute independence is hopeless of attainment, but demand better terms at the hands of the United States.

Fell From a Train.

Tacoma, Wash., May 15.—William Godsey, assistant cook of the west-bound overland Northern Pacific train, miraculously escaped death, falling from the train near Ellensburg, while going 30 miles an hour. He landed in a clump of willows beside the track. His fall was not noticed. He walked to the nearest station and took the next train to this city, being only slightly bruised.

The Bicycle Trust.

Trenton, N. J., May 15.—Articles of incorporation were filed with the secretary of state tonight of the American Bicycle Company, with an authorized capital stock of \$50,000,000.

Destructive Explosion.

London, May 15.—A fearful explosion occurred today at Kurts' chemical works at St. Helens, Lancashire county, killing four persons and seriously injuring 20.

Fire broke out in the chlorate-house, and a large quantity of chlorate exploded, causing much destruction. Subsequently the boiler exploded, and the whole works were rased. The two is strewn with debris, and most of the buildings in the place were damaged. The total loss is about \$100,000.

FIGHT IN A JUNGLE

Gunboats Dislodge Rebels on the Rio Grande.

HEAVY VOLLEYS AT SHORT RANGE

Americans Opened With Rapid-Fire Guns and Put the Enemy to Rout.

Manila, May 16.—The tinclad gunboat Laguna de Bay and Cavandonga, and a launch, under Captain Grant, ran into a nest of insurgents concealed in the bushes on both sides of the Rio Grande, three miles above Calumpit, yesterday afternoon, and were received with heavy volleys at short range. A sergeant belonging to the Utah battery was killed, and one private was wounded.

Opening with their rapid fire guns, the Americans killed 20 of the natives and wounded several others, filling the jungle with a hail of shot for half an hour, until the enemy fled.

Flanked the Enemy.
Manila, May 16.—Two companies of the Second Oregon volunteers, and the same number of Minnesota men, with 20 American scouts, under Captain Case and Berkleimer, flanked the insurgents at San Ildefonso this morning and captured the place.

The Filipinos, in terror and panic, fired 20,000 rounds of ammunition, but only slightly wounded one scout. One insurgent officer was killed and six men wounded.

The insurgents retreated and are now at San Miguel, six miles north of San Ildefonso.

Twenty per cent of the opposing rebel force has been killed and wounded since Lawton began his advance May 1.

Spaniards Sent In.
Washington, May 16.—The war department today received the following dispatch:

"Manila, May 16.—It is reported that at Zamboanga the insurgents attacked the Spanish troops May 11, using quickfiring guns and arms captured from the Spanish gunboat. The Spanish general and two officers were wounded. There were few casualties among the troops. The Spanish garrison is now besieged. The water supply is cut off, and the troops are calling for relief. OTIS."

A CHECK TO RUSSIA.

China Refuses a Demand for Railway Concessions.

Shanghai, May 16.—The tung-li-yaman (Chinese foreign office) has replied to the Russian minister at Peking, M. De Giers, that the government is unable to accede to the Russian demand, made last Wednesday, for a new railway concession connecting Peking with Russia's present system in Manchuria.

Not since the taking of Fort Arthur by Russia have the Chinese been so agitated as over this demand. When M. De Giers named a specific route in not yet ascertainable, some officials asserting that only a preliminary notice was given for a line direct from Peking to Shan Hai Kwan.

Certainly the British legation in Peking had no previous knowledge that such proposal was coming from St. Petersburg. The concession asked for would ruin the existing northern railways, in which British capital to the amount of \$2,000,000 is invested, but there seems to be no alternative route without interfering with plans for railway extension which the Chinese themselves have in mind.

It is believed that Russia's action in this matter is intended to demonstrate to the world that the recent convention with Great Britain respecting spheres of influence in China, which was notified to the Chinese government almost before this last convention was demanded, has not fettered the action of Russia at the court of Peking, and also to strengthen Russia's prestige with the Chinese, which was unfavorably affected by her withdrawal of her late protest respecting the northern railways.

SITUATION ON THE ISLANDS.

Otis Gives Orders for Receiving the Philippine Negotiators.

Washington, May 16.—The following dispatch from Major-General Otis, giving the status of the military situation, as it now exists, in the operations against the insurgents, was received at the war department today:

"Manila, May 16.—Adjutant-General, Washington: The situation is as follows: Lawton from Baliuag has taken Ildefonso and San Miguel to the north, with slight losses, and driving a considerable force of the enemy; gunboats and canoes, accompanying 1,500 men under Kobbe up the Rio Grande from Calumpit, will depart on the 16th. MacArthur remains at San Fernando, covering the country.

"Yesterday a messenger came from Aguinaldo expressing a wish to send a commission to Manila for a conference with the United States commission to arrange terms of peace. Directions have been given to pass a body of representative insurgents to Manila, should they present themselves. OTIS."

To Be Gunboats.

New York, May 16.—Under the instructions of Secretary Long, the gunboats Annapolis and Vicksburg are to be placed out of commission and refitted for service as gunboats, instead of as training ships. Experience has demonstrated that these vessels are too small for the training service, and their places will be taken in this service by the Moonongahela on the Atlantic coast, and the Hartford and the Pensacola in Pacific waters.