

A DASH TO CUBA

Transports are Chartered to Take the Army Across.

MAY LAND AT MATANZAS

Regular Troops Now on the Way to Tampa—Object Is to Strike a Decisive Blow Before the Rainy Season Sets In—Work in War Department.

Washington, April 30.—A rather striking signification of the invasion of Cuba was made today in the chartering of eight large steamers, of an average capacity of about 2,000 tons, and able to carry from 500 to 1,000 passengers each. These are to be used as transports for the conveyance of the first military expedition to Cuba. The names of the boats are the Olivette and the Florida, of the Plant line, now in the Gulf; the Southern Pacific Company's steamer Aranzas; the New York & Texas Company's vessels Comal, now at New York, and Alamo, now en route to the Gulf, and three fine ships of the Boston Merchants' & Mariners' line, in Baltimore, the Allegheny, Berkshire and the Decatur Miller. The price paid for these vessels is from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for the 30 days for which they are chartered. They will be taken charge of by the quartermaster department at the earliest possible moment.

General Shafter, in command of the troops now concentrated at New Orleans, has been in consultation with the officials today as to the execution of plans of campaign, but the orders given him cannot be made public. The president and cabinet will consider the large number of applications that have been made for the appointment to the posts of major-general and brigadier-general, and there is some expectation that he will be able to nominate a few of these officers soon.

General Fitzhugh Lee arrived here today, after a 10 days' visit to Virginia. With him came Miss Cisneros, the young Cuban girl rescued from Cabañas, who has been the guest of Miss Lee. The general shared the keen public interest in the report of the shelling of Matanzas. He has visited that city frequently, and was familiar with the lay of the land and defenses. He said the batteries were antiquated and were no longer able to offer any formidable resistance.

Every endeavor is being put forward by the war department to organize the volunteer army and increase the regular army to its full strength. Muster-rolls of the companies of the volunteer army have been prepared in the war department and sent to the officers who have been detailed to formally induct the state troops into the service of the government. With a few modifications they are the same as those used in the late war.

The question of arms and equipments for the volunteer army is now receiving the attention of the ordnance department and the quartermaster-general's department. As soon as information is received as to the exact number of arms needed for the volunteers, they will be shipped to their state rendezvous for distribution.

The three independent regiments of cavalry authorized by the volunteer army act, and which are to be composed exclusively of frontiersmen, are to be known as the First, Second and Third regiments of United States volunteer cavalry. They are to be composed of 12 troops each.

Off for the Front.
Chickamauga National Park, Ga., April 30.—The two companies of the Ninth (colored) cavalry, which arrived in Chattanooga late this afternoon, were stopped after having started to Chickamauga, and switched into the Western & Atlantic yards. Orders are said to have been received to have the troops proceed as rapidly as possible to Tampa, Fla., to which point the troops from Mobile have also been ordered, and they will leave before morning.

It is currently reported that the companies of the Ninth regiment now in camp here will be shipped at once to Tampa, as well as the Twenty-fourth infantry (colored). Officers of the Ninth have been making every preparation for departure.

Another Letter Held Up.
Washington, April 30.—The post-office department has information of another letter being held up because it contained treasonable matter. The postmaster at Santa Cruz reported that a letter to Senor Sagasta, Spain, had been mailed there, and, under direction of Assistant Postmaster-General Tynan its contents were examined. It was mailed by a woman who gave an address where an answer would reach her, and contains information in regard to the fortifications of San Francisco, where guns are located, etc. The letter will be referred to the war department.

Suspected Spanish Spy.
Laredo, Tex., April 30.—When the Great Northern mail train arrived this evening a stranger on the train was arrested by an officer from Fort McIntosh, and from what could be learned he is thought to be a Spanish spy, who has been under surveillance all the way from New York. He was bound for Mexico. The prisoner is at the post, but nothing further of a definite nature could be learned tonight.

WAS IT A SPANIARD?

Bungling Attempt Made to Blow Up Torpedo Boats.

Portland, Or., May 2.—A bungling attempt to set fire to the shop or frighten the workmen on torpedo-boats 12 and 13 was made under the wharf of the Wolff & Zwickler iron works about 11 o'clock last night.

While nothing could be learned of the perpetrator, a Spaniard or a Mexican who was seen hanging about the place all day and who had been several times ordered away is suspected by the police.

The late workmen, who were just quitting the building, were startled, as the whistle blew, by a dull report apparently just below the wharf on which the torpedo-boats are building, which shook the structure to its foundation. The Madison-street bridge night watchman also heard the detonation and saw a blinding flash directly under the torpedo-boats.

Three of the workmen seized lanterns and hurried beneath the wharf. Just as they reached the ground, a second report, like that of a shotgun or revolver, was heard, and they saw a light flash for an instant, but that was all. Groping about by the dim light of their lanterns, they were unable to find anything which could have made an explosion, and they finally decided to abandon the quest till daybreak.

The Spaniard whom the police suspect of having set off the explosion, either with the deliberate purpose of blowing up the torpedo-boats or setting fire to the building, or thinking to terrify the contractors, had been slinking about the place all day.

Whatever was the purpose of the man who set off the explosion, he failed to do any more harm than to set the town agog, for the wharf and boats were unscathed.

ALLEGED GERMAN NOTE.

Rumor That She Will Not Permit the Bombardment of Manila.

Madrid, May 2.—A great impression has been produced here by a rumor that the German government has issued a note declaring that it will not oppose the landing of troops in the Philippines but will not permit a bombardment, owing to the important German mercantile interests in all the towns of the island. Germany's omission to declare neutrality is held to be the cause of the rumor.

Japan has requested permission for Japanese naval officers to watch the operations in the Philippines from the Spanish headquarters.

The United States fleet is not expected to reach Manila until Tuesday. The Spanish fleet has been divided in two. It will be reinforced by a large auxiliary cruiser.

According to dispatches from Manila, the Vos Espanola describes the port of Manila as impregnable. The paper also says that the forts of Malondo, Sud Malatea, Pasteri, Mirallas and St. Lucia Pilar bristle with guns, chiefly Krupp's.

PORTUGAL'S NEUTRALITY.

Officially Announced in a Proclamation in Lisbon.

Lisbon, May 2.—The official gazette today publishes the neutrality decree of Portugal in the war between Spain and the United States.

It is similar to the decree issued at the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, and contains the following six articles:

- First—Forbidding the equipment of privateers in Portuguese waters.
- Second—Forbidding the entry of privateers into Portuguese waters.
- Third—Permitting belligerents to make a short stay in Portuguese ports.
- Fourth—Defining legitimate trade as regards the belligerents and forbidding trading in goods considered contraband of war.
- Fifth—Warning Portuguese and foreigners in Portugal against actions contrary to the security of the state.
- Sixth—Refusing protection to any infringers of the decree.

COST OF THE WAR.

Sum Needed for Additional Army Expenses.

Washington, May 2.—The secretary of the treasury today received from the secretary of war estimates of deficiencies in appropriations for the expenses of the war for the remaining two quarters of the present fiscal year, aggregating \$34,019,987. In his letter, Secretary Alger says that the acts of congress approved April 22 and 26, 1898, authorizing the enrollment of a volunteer army and placing the regular army on a war footing, will necessitate this increase for the organization, support and maintenance of the new forces.

This estimate, which will be transmitted to congress, is entirely independent of the allotments made by the president to the war department out of the \$50,000,000. This will indicate that up to July 1 next (two months) the increased expenditures on account of the war will be approximately \$90,000,000.

The Spanish government officials are bewildered at the attitude of Great Britain. They believe the government and people of Great Britain hold divergent opinions, and that the official acts of Great Britain are due to a secret compact with the United States.

Washington, May 2.—Secretary Alger this morning issued a most sweeping order directed to all bureau chiefs of the war department and all officers on special duty, from highest to lowest, instructing them, under no circumstances, to give information to the press on any subject connected with the war. A similar order already exists in the navy department.

Manila, May 2.—The government has forbidden the use of cipher dispatches.

FORT BOMBARDED

New York, Puritan and Cincinnati Fire on Matanzas.

SPANISH RETURNED THE FIRE

Great Damage Done to the Fortifications of the Cuban Port—Believed There Was Also Loss of Life—No Damage Done to American Warships.

On Board the Flagship New York, off Matanzas, April 29.—The New York, the Puritan and the Cincinnati bombarded the forts at the mouth of Matanzas harbor this afternoon. There were no casualties on our side, but it is believed that the hail of iron which pounded in the forts must have caused loss of life to the Spaniards, though nothing is known definitely.

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

A battery on the eastward arm of the bay opened fire on the flagship, and this was also shelled.

About 12 8-inch shells were fired from the eastern forts, but all fell short.

About five or six light shells were fired from the half-completed battery. Two of these whizzed over the New York, and the others fell short. The shells left the bay for the open sea, the object of discovering the whereabouts of the batteries, having been accomplished.

In the neighborhood of 300 shots were put on land from the three vessels from a range of from 4,000 to 7,000 yards.

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 blown up by the shells.

All the ships engaged showed excellent marksmanship throughout the engagement, and when they were firing at the shortest range, nearly every shell took effect.

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

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

Department Not Informed.

Washington, April 29.—So far as could be learned, the officials of the administration were not notified of the bombardment of Matanzas yesterday afternoon. The navy department keeps a telegraph office open in the building all night and a confidential official remains at the department all night to translate the messages as received. There was considerable business done over the wires till the early morning hours, but none of the dispatches were sent either to the White House or to the secretary of the navy.

BOMBARDMENT OF HAVANA.

Not the Present Purpose of the Government.

Washington, April 29.—The war situation is substantially this: The blockading squadron remains passive before Havana, with no present purpose of bombarding or of drawing the fire of the shore batteries. The strategic purpose of an effective blockade of the Cuban coast is being accomplished to the entire satisfaction of the authorities here. There is no indication that a part of the fleet will be withdrawn for the purpose of affording additional protection to North Atlantic ports.

No word had come to the department up to the close of office hours of the arrival of the Montserrat at Cienfuegos. The officials are inclined to believe that if she has gotten into port she did so before the blockade of Cienfuegos had begun.

The very fact that the Madrid officials have rather ostentatiously declared that the Spanish fleet has sailed to bombard the cities on the North Atlantic coast is taken as a certain indication at the navy department of the utter improbability of such a movement. If this were contemplated, the Spanish officials would be the very last to make their purpose public.

The navy department, as yet, has made no arrangements for the care of prisoners taken by our warships, but the legal officers of the department think they should be sent to Boston naval prison.

The state department posted a notice today, stating it had been officially advised of the issuance of neutrality orders by Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Norway and Sweden, Russia and Colombia. It is supposed also that official notice of Great Britain's and France's neutrality will be received by tomorrow. Including France and Great Britain, four of the six great powers of Europe, have declared their neutrality—Great Britain, Italy, France and Russia.

TO GUARD THE COLUMBIA.

Auxiliary Naval Vessel Will Be Stationed at the Mouth.

Washington, April 30.—It is the intention of the navy department to have one auxiliary naval vessel stationed at the mouth of the Columbia river for its protection, or in case of necessity. The probabilities are that one of the merchant vessels which have been negotiated for on the coast will be used for this purpose, or some vessel that can be readily obtained on the Columbia. She will probably be armed with six pounders and rapid-fire guns. The Oregon naval reserve will probably be mustered in for service as her crew, as it is desired that men familiar with the river and Pacific Northwest be in command or in position to render service on board the cruiser.

MINES IN THE COLUMBIA.

Governor Lord Officially Notified of Their Existence.

Salem, Or., April 30.—Governor Lord today received from Adjutant-General Corbin, at Washington, the following telegram:

"The secretary of war requires me to inform you, in reply to your telegram of the 22d inst. instructions have been sent to engineer officers to plant mines in rivers and harbors. Regulations for navigation of friendly vessels have been approved and published by the secretary of war."

The governor desires that all persons concerned take notice of the facts in the telegram.

READY FOR THE SIEGE

Porto Rico Warehouses Are Full of Provisions.

St. Thomas, West Indies, April 30.—Porto Rico advices received here today say that four Spanish gunboats are at San Juan de Porto Rico. They are being painted black or possibly dark gray.

Martial law has been proclaimed in Porto Rico, and it is being enforced in a tyrannical manner. Crowds of people are leaving for the interior, and the capital is almost deserted by the civilian population.

The military are most actively engaged in preparing for defense. Thirty torpedoes have been planted in the channel. In addition, an old steamer has been sunk across the harbor entrance, the buoys in the channel have been altered and from Monday last, after the news of the blockade of Havana reached there, accompanied by a report that the Cuban capital had been bombarded, all lights were ordered extinguished at night. The French residents, when these advices left San Juan, were seeking refuge in the French cruiser Admiral Rigault de Genouilly.

An American sugar estate, it is announced, was plundered after the receipt of the news of the declaration of war between Spain and the United States. The British consul at San Juan, who has charge of American interests, has cabled to his government requesting that a British warship be sent to that port.

Spanish steamers landed at Maguez, 70 miles from San Juan, Tuesday, a quantity of arms and ammunition, and there was a similar landing of supplies at San Juan Tuesday. Besides this, about 50,000 tons of provisions were landed at San Juan Sunday last. The warehouses of Porto Rico are reported to be full of provisions, and the Spanish authorities say they can stand a siege of two months.

All their coast lights have now been ordered to be extinguished.

FRANCE IS NEUTRAL.

Official Notice Has Been Received of the Proclamation.

Washington, April 30.—The French embassy today received a cablegram from Paris announcing that a decree of neutrality between the United States and Spain has been issued, and that a detailed copy will be forwarded by mail. On receipt of the dispatch, the French ambassador, M. Cambon, wrote to the state department informing it of France's neutrality. The cable notice is brief, stating only that the decree follows the treaty of Paris of 1856.

The state department has also been informed that Mexico, Argentine Republic, Corea and Belgium have proclaimed neutrality. Corea's neutrality is considered important, owing to her proximity to the Philippines.

The state department has heard nothing from Germany, but this causes no apprehension, owing to the strong assurances Germany has given that she will observe strict neutrality between the belligerents. This assurance was conveyed to Ambassador White, and is looked upon as practically equivalent to a formal declaration of neutrality. Germany, Austria and Portugal are the last of the important European nations to declare their attitude.

Powder Works Destroyed.

Easton, Pa., April 30.—The town of Dover, in Morris county, N. J., and the country within a radius of 20 miles was startled this afternoon by a series of terrific explosions, the first of which occurred at 2:10 o'clock. The explosion occurred in the Atlantic Powder Company's works, and the plant is now a mass of ruins. Six workmen were killed and four others were seriously injured, some probably fatally. The remains of the dead have not been recovered. They are: Alfred Rarick, William Stumpf, Casper Rav, David Scheer, William Hayscock, Elias Aber. All the killed were married and left families.

Olympia, April 29.—The supreme court has affirmed judgment in the case of the state, respondent, vs. Johnny Tommy and Charlie Moses, Indians, appellants, charged with murder in the first degree, committed in Skagit county, May 5, last year.

A LINER CAPTURED

The Little Tender Mangrove Takes the Big Panama.

LOADED WITH PROVISIONS

Captain Everett's Threat to Sink the Spaniard Brought It to a Stop—The Panama Carried Two 12-Pounders, But Did Not Use Them.

Key West, April 28.—The lighthouse tender Mangrove puffed proudly into Key West harbor this morning with the richest prize of the war thus far. The captive was the Panama, Captain Quevedo, a big trans-Atlantic liner, and an auxiliary cruiser of the Spanish navy, which has been plying of late between New York and Havana. She had 29 passengers, including three women, one Frenchman and one Mexican, and a crew of 72. As the Panama carried two 12-pounders, she could easily have annihilated the little Mangrove, and as the latter came into the harbor with her prize, there was not a craft that did not salute her.

The Mangrove, under Lieutenant-Commander William H. Everett, was cruising along the Cuban coast, navigated by Ensign Palmer, shortly before 6 o'clock last evening, about 20 miles north of Havana. At 9:45 she sighted the Panama. When the latter came within range, a shot from one of the Mangrove's 2-pounders was sent across her bows, but the Spaniard ignored the challenge and went on. Another shot followed without result, but the Mangrove was drawing nearer the stranger, who calmly proceeded on her course, apparently without any intention of running away.

When the third shot was fired, the Mangrove was within 100 yards of the Panama, and Lieutenant-Commander Everett shouted to the deck officer that if she did not surrender he would sink her. The Mangrove's officers admit that they expected the enemy's 12-pounders to open on them in response to the threat, but the Spaniard promptly came to.

Ensign Dayton, the senior officer of the Mangrove, boarded the prize. The battleship Indiana had seen the capture, and meanwhile drew up to the Mangrove, giving her a lusty cheer. Lieutenant-Commander Everett reported to Captain Taylor, of the battleship, and the latter put a prize crew aboard the captive. They then proceeded to the flagship, where a formal report was made, and Rear-Admiral Sampson ordered Lieutenant-Commander Everett to convey the prize to Key West.

The Panama is of about 2,500 tons, and her passengers were mainly Spanish refugees fleeing from New York and other points to Havana. The Panama carried a valuable cargo of general merchandise, including a large quantity of corn. Much of it was meant to provision the Spaniards in Cuba, and the cargo, with the ship itself, undoubtedly makes the richest prize thus far taken. Under the regulations, however, the battleship Indiana will share in the prize-money, as she was in sight when the capture was made.

The entire fleet have been on the lookout for the Panama for several days, as she was due at Havana yesterday or today.

If the pace set by the vessels of the North Atlantic squadron in the taking of prizes be long maintained, Spain's merchant marine is destined to need reconstructing from the ground up before the war closes. During the five days since hostilities opened, 11 prizes have been brought in, and there is a prospect that several other Spanish vessels now in Gulf waters will also be captured.

The gunboat Newport brought in the Spanish sloop Paquette and the Spanish schooner Pireno, Cuban coasting vessels, captured off Havana this morning. These captures, following upon the Mangrove's clever achievement, have roused the people here to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

New York, April 28.—Agents of the captured Spanish steamer Panama say the vessel and cargo are valued at over \$250,000.

FAMINE IN HAVANA.

The City's Supply of Beef Has Given Out—All Prices Have Advanced.

New York, April 28.—A correspondent of the World sends the following Cuban advices via Key West: Havana is completely out of beef, although large shipments are expected from Mexico.

All necessities of life have gone up to prices never heard of, and if something is not done at once, many will perish of hunger.

Families of means have stored large supplies of stores in their houses.

All Cuban families leaving are urged to stay, the offer being that they will be respected and protected.

Blanco has issued orders to arm all men, and the order is being obeyed, and even boys of 14 years are being taken in.

Large numbers of Cubans have joined the insurgents around Havana.

Waterville, Wash., April 28.—"Uncle Jimmy" Walters, 87 years of age, was killed by a bull two days ago, but the fact was not known until today. It was discovered that the bull had broken through a fence and overtaken Mr. Walters and crushed him to death, breaking several ribs on each side of his backbone.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Trade Conditions in the Leading Cities of the World.

[Reported by Downing, Hopkins & Co., Inc., Board of Trade Brokers, 715 to 714 Chamber of Commerce Building, Portland, Oregon.]

Great activity in wheat last week was caused by the remarkable advance in all foreign markets. If the Hispano-American war continues, the price of wheat will go higher at Chicago, but it now seems that peace means lower prices, for the following reasons: Europe has been advancing very largely, fearing a blockade of our ports and a famine at home unless their requirements could be largely met by American shipments, and large purchases have been made for foreign account at the advanced prices on account of the fear of a war with Spain. The enormous export demand has not advanced our home markets largely, but has compelled every line of shorts to cover, leaving the market in just the shape for a serious break. The Minneapolis market Record says: "After a long spell of dullness in the flour market business picked up in very good shape the past week. Sales, with two exceptions, were larger than for any one week since the beginning of the crop year, one local company alone selling nearly 200,000 barrels. The demand from abroad, for both patents and clears, was in excess of production and all was for quick shipment. Indications are that stocks on the other side of the Atlantic are pretty well cleaned up and buyers over there are, in consequence, in a hurry to replenish them. Sales of patents for domestic account have been heavy to buyers east of Chicago. Stocks are rather low all over the country." Not for years has the Northwest been as short of wheat as now. Country stocks have reached a very low point, there being probably less than 2,000,000 bushels held at this time by country houses, only a very small portion of which is contract wheat. This explains why the Minneapolis wheat market has advanced over 20 cents in one week. The wheat to fill contracts is not in sight. Out of the small country supply must go the wheat for country milling, with no new wheat to come for grinding until September.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 92@93c; Valley and Bluestem, 95@96c per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$4.90; graham, \$4.35; superfine, \$2.75 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 45c; choice gray, 43@44c per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$25; brewing, \$26 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$25; shorts, \$19.

Hay—Timothy, \$12@13; clover, \$11@12; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—Oregon, 11c per dozen.

Butter—Fancy creamery, 35@40c; fair to good, 30@35c; dairy, 25@30c per roll.

Cheese—Oregon full cream, 13@14c; Young America, 13@14c.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.00; springers, \$3@4; geese, \$6.50@7.00; ducks, \$6.00@6.50 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12@14c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 30@40c per sack; sweets, \$1.75@2 per cental.

Onions—Oregon, \$1.75@2.00 per sack.

Hops—5@12 1/2c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4@6c.

Wool—Valley, 14@16c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8@12c; mohair, 25c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4c; dressed mutton, 6 1/2c; spring lambs, 10c per lb.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.25; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$5.00@6.25 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@4.00; cows, \$2.50@3.25; dressed beef, 6 1/2@7c per pound.

Veat—Large, 5@5 1/2c; small, 6@6 1/2c per pound.

Seattle Market.

Potatoes—Yakimas, \$11@12 per ton; natives, \$8@10; sweets, 2 1/2c per pound; box of 60 pounds, \$1.75.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 23c; ranch, 10@12c; dairy, 16c; Iowa fancy creamery, 21c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 12@13c; Eastern cheese, 12 1/2c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 15c; California ranch, 14c.

Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 8c; cows, 7@7 1/2c; mutton, 8 1/2c; pork, 7c; veal, small, 8c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 15@16c; dressed, 18c; turkeys, live, 14c; dressed, 17@18c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 6@7c; steel heads, 7@8c; salmon trout, 9@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4c; tom cod, 4c; ling cod, 4@5c; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 3@5c; herring, 4c.

Olympia oysters, per sack, \$3@3.25.

Corn—Whole, \$23.50@24.00 per ton, \$24; feed meal, \$24 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$26; whole, \$25.

Flour—Patents, per barrel, \$5.00@5.25; straights, \$4.75; California brands, \$6.50; Dakota brands, \$5.00@5.75; buckwheat flour, \$6.50.

Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$16; shorts, per ton, \$17@18.

Feed—Chopped feed, \$21@22 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$18@19; oil cake meal, per ton, \$25.