

THE HILLSBORO ARGUS.

VOL. V. HILLSBORO, OREGON, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1898. NO. 7.

DOINGS OF THE WEEK

What Has Happened in the Civilized World.

GIVEN IN THE PRESS DISPATCHES

A Complete Review of the News of the Past Seven Days in This and All Foreign Lands.

The senate has adopted the conference report on the naval appropriation bill.

The harbor defense plans of San Francisco are said to be in the hands of the Spanish.

A New York Journal dispatch says the government is preparing to seize several small islands in the South Atlantic as a base of supplies.

Blanco, in his report of the Matanzas bombardment says the French and English consuls have entered protests on the ground that no previous notice was given.

It is announced that extraordinary naval and military activity is displayed throughout France. All the ships recently mobilized are kept in fighting trim. The reserves expect to be called out.

It was officially announced at Madrid that the fortifications of Matanzas have not suffered, in spite of 300 shells fired by the American fleet, and that not one man was killed or wounded thereby. The stories of the bombardment received from the United States are received with shouts of derision.

Spanish mail has been ordered confiscated by the postoffice department. In the first batch received at the dead letter office, the discovery of numerous contraband letters, some of which are of great importance to the naval and military authorities, has demonstrated that the order is not only justified, but a wise precaution.

A proclamation has been issued by the autonomist government at Havana. Spanish adherents in Cuba are urged to resist the American invasion. The war is classed as an unholy one. The American campaign is denounced as being one of aggression and the United States government is accused of sailing under palpaty false colors.

News has reached San Francisco of a terrible explosion of powder that was being carried by pack train to Colonel Dan Burns' Candelaria mine in Mexico. The pack train was unusually large. It consisted of over 110 mules and the attendants numbered some 40 Mexicans. A part of the freight consisted of ammunition, caps and boxes of powder. It is said that 218 boxes of powder and 20,000 caps exploded with such force that 15 men and 60 mules were killed.

Lead and sugar are advancing rapidly in London owing to the war.

Secretary Alger has submitted estimates of \$34,000,000 to cover additional army expenses to July 1. This will be included in the general deficiency bill.

The committee on military affairs has favorably reported the administration bill suspending important laws governing the quartermaster's department in the army.

The emergency war measure was passed in the house on the 25th by unanimous consent. It repeals the limitations upon the purchase of quartermaster's supplies during the existing war with Spain.

Minister Clayton communicated to the foreign department of the government at Mexico the resolution of the American congress declaring war with Spain. Minister Mariscal, of the foreign department, replied, assuring the American minister on the authority of President Diaz, that Mexico will maintain the strictest neutrality.

Oriental articles received by steamer in Vancouver, B. C., tell of a shocking massacre which occurred near Tai-poh, China, at the house of one Yang King-shang. A party of over 20 robbers entered the house and murdered Yang, his wife, his mother and children and servants, 15 persons in all, who resisted them in their attempt to loot the house and attack the daughters. When the robbers had butchered all the inmates they set the house on fire.

The large packing-houses of the Atlantic Powder Company, near Dover, N. J., containing high explosives for the United States government were blown up and two men are known to have been killed. Several are missing and a number were injured. The explosion is believed to have been the work of Spanish spies. Suspicious characters had been seen around the buildings for several days.

The large Spanish steamer Guido, bound from Corunna for Havana with a large cargo of provisions and money for the Spanish troops, was captured by the United States monitor Terror. The capture took place 10 miles off Cardenas, after a desperate chase, during which the monitor Terror and the gunboat Machias fired several shots, almost blowing the Spaniard's pilot house into the water. One man in the pilot house was seriously injured. It is estimated that with her cargo she is worth nearly \$500,000.

Minor News Items.
A newly discovered spot on the sun visible now, is said to be 30,000 miles in diameter.

The sale of salt is a government monopoly in China, which yields a yearly revenue of \$11,000,000.

Jews have become farmers in Maine in such numbers as to be recognized as a factor in trading.

The contributions to the James Russell Lowell memorial fund in Boston now amount to \$23,078.

LATER NEWS.

A London dispatch says England has advised Spain to yield, saying that resistance of the American demands at Manila is worse than useless.

Deficiency estimates of \$10,000,000 for the purchase of supplies for the Asiatic squadron have been prepared for submission to congress.

Report that the Spanish fleet was completely destroyed is confirmed in a dispatch received by the New York Herald direct from Manila.

Secretary Long says Commodore Dewey's gallantry will be recognized, and that he will be made acting admiral and later nominated rear-admiral.

Fearing an attack upon the seaports of the North Atlantic coast by Spanish men-of-war now on their way to Western waters, Secretary Alger has taken steps to further improve the seacoast defenses.

William Astor Chanler, a New York millionaire, is to fight for the freedom of Cuba. He will head an expedition of wealthy New Yorkers and join the army of General Gomez, paying the expenses of the expedition himself.

A dispatch has been received in Washington from New York saying that a Wall street news agency publishes under date of Hong Kong a dispatch declaring that Manila has fallen, and that the Stars and Stripes float over the Philippines.

The government will take steps at once to supply Dewey's fleet with provisions and other supplies, including ammunition and coal, and to this end will dispatch at the earliest possible moment a sufficient number of ships to supply amply all possible needs of the Asiatic squadron.

The British ambassador at Washington, Sir Julian Pauncefote, is to be recalled. He will be succeeded by Sir Thomas H. Sanderson, permanent under-secretary of state for the foreign affairs and one of the most prominent officials in the British service.

It is stated in Madrid by those responsible for naval movements that it has been determined to avoid the isolated combats on equal terms with a superior enemy, and that they now intend to throw the whole united naval strength of Spain into one supreme effort to crush the American squadron in Cuban waters.

The cabinet has decided to await the report of Commodore Dewey and then send him the number of troops necessary to enforce control of the Philippines. For these purposes the Pacific slope troops will be used, and it is expected that at least 5,000 will be en route within 10 days. There does not seem to be any doubt as to the government's purpose to hold the islands pending a final settlement with Spain, when they will be used as collateral to secure payment to the United States of a war indemnity.

The Spanish admiral of the Philippines acknowledges that his fleet has been completely demolished.

It is claimed at Madrid that no Spanish warships surrendered, and that a majority of them perished. The Spanish loss is estimated at 400 men killed.

A Hong Kong dispatch says the bombardment of Manila has begun. The inhabitants are fleeing to the country. The operators in the cable station in the midst of the forts have fled to save their lives. Cable communication is interrupted.

A special to the Chicago Daily News from Washington says: The president and cabinet have received information that the Spanish governor-general of the Philippines has sent a flag of truce to Commodore Dewey. This act is interpreted to mean the capitulation of the Spanish forces.

A terrible storm passed over South Dakota and Iowa. South Dakota reports a death list of 18, and a property loss of \$100,000. In Northwest Iowa, the towns of Pringhar, Hartley and Curlew were badly wrecked, Hartley being almost completely destroyed. Several people in that section are reported killed. The town of Macedonia, near Council Bluffs, is badly wrecked, but no loss of life is reported there.

Governor Lord, of Oregon, has designated the following as field officers of the regiment of volunteers raised in response to the presidential call for troops: Commander—Colonel O. Summers; of Portland; lieutenant-colonel—George O. Yoran, of Eugene; senior major—C. U. Gantenbein, of Portland; second major—P. G. Eastwick, of Portland; third major—Percy Willis, of Salem; chaplain—W. S. Gilbert, of Eugene.

Details of the battle of Manila have been received at the British colonial office. They came in two cable messages. The first dispatch announced that the American fleet entered Manila harbor at daybreak, stationing itself opposite the city. The forts opened fire on the American ships, whereupon they shifted their position to Cavite, Manila bay, engaging in a fierce fight against both the forts and the Spanish fleet. The engagement here lasted two hours, and resulted in the annihilation of the Spanish fleet. This dispatch adds that the American ships withdrew to their magazine vessel in the center of the roads for the purpose of coaling. One American vessel, name not mentioned, is said to have been disabled.

At Roubaix, one of the socialist strongholds of France, the 11,000 public school children receive free food and clothing at the expense of the town.

The late Mrs. Julia W. James, of Boston, left nearly all her estate, valued at \$542,069, to the Museum of Fine Arts and the Institute of Technology.

Corea's first railway, 25 miles in length, is being constructed by American contractors. It is to extend from Chemulpo, on the Yellow sea, to Seoul, the capital.

RIOTS IN MADRID

Civil Authorities Call on Military for Protection.

GARRISON READY FOR DUTY

Celebration of Murat's Victims Observed—The Manila Disaster Uppermost in the Public Mind—Formation of a National Ministry Possible.

London, May 4.—The Madrid correspondent of the Standard, telegraphing at midnight, says:

Senor Aguilera, the civil governor of Madrid, has just posted on the walls of the home office the customary proclamation, intimating that the civil authorities consider that the circumstances justify the handing over to the military authorities the mission of keeping order. Lieutenant-General Caban, captain-general of Madrid, has assumed charge, and the first military patrols have just appeared in the Puerto de Sol. The measure is taken in consequence of the attitude of certain political parties. The whole garrison is ready in barracks.

At 2 A. M. a mob tried to break into the Apollo theater to hold a manifestation. The police prevented their doing so, but many windows were broken before they dispersed.

Tribute to Murat's Victims.

Madrid, May 4.—The celebrations in honor of the Spanish officers, Ruiz, Diaz and Volador, the victims of Murat's massacre, have proceeded today as usual, in spite of the bad news from the Philippines. A fine procession was headed by the civic guards, 12 abreast, followed by the orphans, the Madrid charities, veterans, municipal functionaries and officials and others. Several regiments of troops brought up the rear. The streets were packed, but there was no outward display of sorrow.

In political circles, however, important developments are hourly expected. Senor Romero y Robledo (leader of the Weylerite party) will interpellate the government in congress, tomorrow, on the events at Manila, and the Carlists and republicans will participate in the debate, which is expected to have important results. It is asserted that the burning of the Reina Cristina was due to American petroleum bombs, and that a number of thatched huts belonging to natives were set on fire in the same way.

The procession passed off amid gloomy sunshine, but there were no patriotic speeches. The minds of the people were too full of the disaster to think of anything but avenging the surprise at Manila bay. Senor Aguilera, the civil governor at Madrid, will not take part in the procession. All his energies were required to watch closely popular feeling, which is certain to explode and to require a propitiatory seagoat.

After the bullfight tonight, very sensational news may be expected.

Madrid, May 4.—The mob tonight tried to break in the Apollo theater and hold a demonstration. The police prevented the attempt from being successful, but the crowd broke all the windows before they were dispersed. Immediately on the declaration of martial law, large number of police and civil guards occupied the principal streets. The Puerto del Sol is held by a squadron of the Princess Hussars, while hussars dismounted, are in the Pontezas square, near the telegraph office. The Princess Hussars are a fine sight, their white uniforms gleaming in a bright moonlight, as they sit on horseback immovable, in close order, in the court of the Puerto del Sol, while the patrol of civil guards are mechanically moving through the square, which is nearly deserted.

Protectorate Wanted.

New York, May 4.—According to a World telegram from Singapore, the policy of General Aguinaldo, a leader of the Philippines insurgents, after the islands have been captured, embraces the independence of the islands, external affairs to be controlled under American and European advisers. Temporarily, at least, the insurgents desire an American protectorate on the same lines as that proposed for Cuba. The scheme includes free trade to the world, safeguards against an influx of Chinese aliens, the complete reformation of the corrupt judiciary, free press and public utterance, religious toleration, removal of restrictions on enterprise, building of railways, and general encouragement of investment in the country.

The Spaniards have committed a massacre on the defenseless population of Cuba city, which was almost destroyed.

Dewey's Instructions.

Washington, May 4.—Commodore Dewey's instructions permit him to bombard Manila if necessary to take possession of the islands, but he will not do so unless the city's harbor troops operate offensively against him.

Chicago, April 29.—The lines of the Western Passenger Association met today to consider the rates to be made for the transportation of troops to the front. No definite action was taken, as all the roads in the association were not represented, but they will be given a chance to vote on the proposition.

The rate is to be two cents per mile for transportation of troops of all sorts, no matter whether they are state troops or have been mustered into service of the government.

NORTHPORT IN RUINS.

The Entire Business District Destroyed by Fire.

Northport, Wash., May 4.—Northport is in ruins. Of the entire business district nothing remains but ashes. More than 40 buildings went up in smoke this morning, causing a loss of about \$100,000. Dozens of people are homeless today, and scores are penniless. Of all the buildings on the flat, but two are left standing—the Spokane & Northern depot and Kendrick's store.

Late last night, some careless smoker threw the stub of a lighted cigarette on the carpet in a little tailor shop behind Madden & Riley's saloon on Fourth avenue. Fire caught and smoldered. At 4 o'clock this morning flames shot up through the roof of the building. Ten minutes later a little crowd of excited men were struggling desperately to check a roaring fire that licked up dry buildings as if they were tinder boxes. For three hours the fire raged. Despairing of every other remedy, a gang of men started blowing up buildings that connected the business district with the rest of the town. Blast after blast threw them down in fragments, mowing a wide path of ruin. The flames swept up to the edge of the ruins, licked up the first timbers, crept part way across, then died down. Northport—what was left of Northport—was saved.

NEWS OF THE VICTORY.

Great Enthusiasm on the Flying Squadron Over Dewey's Coup.

On Board the Flagship Brooklyn, off Port Monroe, May 4.—Before the newspaper boy brought the special editions with news of the battle of Manila on board this morning, those who slept until 8 o'clock were awakened by the sharp reports of guns. With the exception of the morning and evening guns, always expected, any explosion creates excitement now, and this was the case today until it was learned that the steamer Scorpion was firing a salute. The salute was returned, and then came the newspapers containing the press dispatches of Dewey's victory. From stoker to commodore, every man in the squadron knew of the victory within an hour. Officers and men went at routine work with enthusiasm. Knots of those off duty discussed the meager details, and nearly everybody said: "I told you so."

Commodore Schley refused to discuss the matter, except to say: "It was what was to be expected from Dewey." As the most definite news of Dewey's success came there was great jubilation. The Brooklyn was the first ship to carry Commodore Dewey's flag, and these messages were sent:

"To Dewey: The Brooklyn, which first flew your flag, glories in your victory. OFFICERS AND CREW."
"To Dewey: The flying squadron greets to the Asiatic squadron: Bully, boys! Congratulations. SCHLEY."

It was with great difficulty that the men could be restrained from outbursts of enthusiasm when the bulletins were posted forward, and Commodore Schley said that if the official news was as good as the press dispatches, he would let the men yell themselves hoarse.

NO TIME LOST.

Senate's Quick Action on the War Deficiency Bill.

Washington, May 4.—Several war measures were passed by the senate today, and notwithstanding their importance, not one elicited the slightest debate. Probably the most important measure passed was the emergency war deficit bill carrying \$35,720,945. Not more than 10 minutes were consumed in passing it, that time being occupied in reading the measure.

Hawley, chairman of the military affairs committee, secured the passage of a bill providing for the enlistment of a volunteer brigade of engineers, and of 10,000 men in the South, who are immune to yellow fever, these enlistments to be in addition to those provided for in the president's call for 125,000 men. The men will enlist "for the war."

House Proceedings.

Washington, May 4.—The passage of the emergency war bill was the feature of today's action by the house. The naval appropriation bill with the senate amendment providing for the payment of officers of the navy for the use of their inventions by the government stricken out, was reported from the conference and passed. It now goes to the president.

Report Partly Confirmed.

Washington, May 4.—When asked if the army was preparing for an invasion of Cuba at an early date, Secretary of War Alger replied:

"We are preparing for immediate action, and we try to keep so prepared, but plans made today may of necessity have to be changed tomorrow, and that is why we are compelled to keep such absolute silence."

Hot Engagement Reported.

London, May 4.—A dispatch from Hong Kong to the Daily Mail says: Commodore Dewey's fleet is off Corregidor island, hotly engaged with the forts there. Electrical experiments show that the cable has been cut at or near Manila.

Last year suicides in the United States numbered 6,600.

Colonel Grant Sworn In.

New York, May 4.—Colonel Fred Grant has been sworn in at brigade headquarters, Brooklyn, as commander of the "Fighting Fourteenth" regiment, by Brigadier General James McLeer.

Havana, May 4.—It is reported at the palace that an engagement between the Spanish troops and insurgents has taken place at Puerto Principe, the insurgents losing 15, among them two officers.

SPANISH DEFEAT

Met With Heavy Loss at the Philippine Islands.

AMERICAN LOSS WAS LIGHT

Three Spanish Cruisers Destroyed—Only News Comes Through Madrid and Is Colored—American Ships Succeeded in Landing Their Wounded.

Madrid, May 3.—Advices from Manila say that the American squadron, under Commodore Dewey, appeared off the bay of Manila at 5 o'clock this morning and opened a strong cannonade against the Spanish squadron and forts protecting the harbor. The Spanish second-class cruiser Don Juan de Austria, was severely damaged and her commander was killed. Another Spanish vessel was burned. The American squadron retired, having also sustained severe damage.

A second naval engagement followed, in which the American squadron again suffered considerable loss and the Spanish warships Mindanao and Ulloa were slightly damaged. During this engagement the Cavite forts maintained a steadier and stronger fire upon the American squadron than in the first engagement.

Admiral Bermejo, the minister of marine, has expressed himself as highly pleased with the heroism of the Spanish marines, and has telegraphed congratulations to Admiral Montejó and the valorous crews of the Spanish squadron under fire of superior warships.

The Official Report.

The following is the text of the official dispatch from the governor-general of the Philippines to the minister of war, General Correa, as to the engagement off Manila:

"Last night, the batteries at the entrance to the bay announced the arrival of the enemy, forcing a passage under the obscurity of the night. At daybreak the enemy took up positions, opening with a strong fire against Fort Cavite and Tardanel. Our fleet engaged the enemy in a brilliant combat, protected by the Cavite and Manila forts. They obliged the enemy, with heavy loss, to maneuver repeatedly.

"At 9 o'clock the Americans took refuge behind the foreign merchant shipping on the east side of the bay. Our fleet, considering the enemy's superiority, naturally suffered a severe loss. The Reina Cristina is on fire, and another ship, believed to be the Don Juan de Austria, was blown up. There was considerable loss of life. Captain Cadarzo, commanding the Reina Cristina, is among the killed. I cannot now give further details. The spirit of the army, navy and volunteers is excellent."

When the United States fleet arrived at Subic, at 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, Commodore Dewey sent scouting vessels to examine these waters for the enemy, and immediately sailed in the direction of Manila.

Notwithstanding the severe damage the Spanish ships suffered, naval officers here consider that the future operations by the American squadron will be conducted under great difficulty, owing to their having no base where they could repair or coal, or obtain fresh supplies of ammunition.

Another account says the Mindanao and Ulloa were severely damaged in the second engagement.

Mutterings in Madrid.

The town is greatly excited by the serious news from the Philippines, and there is an immense crowd gathering in the Calle de Sevilla. The civil guards on horseback were called out to preserve order, and all precautions have been taken. There is much muttering, but up to the present, nothing more serious has occurred.

Late official telegrams say Admiral Montejó has transferred his flag to the cruiser Reina Cristina, which is completely burned. According to official telegrams, the Spanish cruiser Castilla was also burned.

The other ships retired from the combat, some being sunk to avoid their falling into the enemy's hands.

The second engagement was apparently begun by the Americans after landing their wounded on the west side of the bay.

A cabinet minister speaks of "serious but honorable losses."

SPANIARDS' CRUSHING DEFEAT.

That Is About All the Dispatches Make Clear.

London, May 3.—While it is quite clear that the Spanish squadron has suffered a crushing defeat, the dispatches do not leave clear the interesting question whether the American squadron has suffered damage.

Probably, therefore, the United States squadron will be obliged to make for San Francisco, as the entrance to Manila bay was heavily mined with torpedoes.

MAY END THE WAR.

The Probable Effect of Dewey's Victory at Manila.

Washington, May 3.—Washington is rejoicing tonight. Not since the dark days of a third of a century ago have the people of this city been so profoundly moved by war news as they were this evening.

The first battle of the Hispano-American war has been fought and victory lies with Admiral Dewey's squadron under the Stars and Stripes. That was enough to set the people of Washington almost in a frenzy of enthusiastic rejoicing.

For days, they, in common with the people throughout the country, have been waiting news from the Philippines, as everything pointed to a battle at Manila that might be a decisive conflict of the war. When the news came, indicating a great victory for the American squadron, the enthusiasm of the people was let loose, and the streets of the city have rung with cheers throughout the night.

The first news of the battle received in Washington came in a brief cablegram to the press from Madrid about 8 o'clock this evening. As the night wore on, the cable continued to sing the news of victory for the squadron of Admiral Dewey, and the interest grew into tremendous excitement.

As bulletin after bulletin was posted in front of the newspaper offices, each successive one conveying information more gratifying than its predecessors, the crowds in the streets became uproarious. Good, as well as bad news, spread rapidly, and by 10 o'clock, the streets were crowded with people, all discussing the one exciting topic of the hour. Hundreds gathered in front of the bulletin boards, and every scintilla of news—and it was all glorious—was received with enthusiastic cheers.

While victory had been expected, the news of it, coming, as it did come, from Spanish sources, gave a vent to the patriotism of the people, which has been pent up for days. It was a spontaneous outburst of patriotic feeling that scarcely knew no bounds. Admiral Dewey's name was on every lip, and his praises were sung in the rejoicings of the people.

The absence of any statement of specific injury to the American vessels in the Madrid advices was construed as convincing indication that they had not suffered appreciable injury and this was especially pleasing to the students of the news.

Not only was the preservation of the American ships and men considered in itself a happy outcome, but was commended upon as indicating clearly that Admiral Dewey and his associate officers and the men under their command had discharged splendidly their several duties in directing and executing the fight.

In this connection it was pointed out as little less than marvelous that the American squadron escaped without severe injury, because, notwithstanding the disparity in the naval forces, the Spanish fleet, assisted by the shore batteries, should have been able to effect severe damage before it was destroyed. Its failure to do so was explicable only upon the hypothesis of perfect and swift work by the American squadron.

May End the War.

An opinion freely expressed tonight by naval officers is that the very decisive victory of Admiral Dewey's fleet will mean probably an early end of the war without further naval battles of importance. The American fleet, it is suggested, is now supreme in the waters of Spain's Pacific possession, and indications point strongly toward the wresting of the Philippines from their control. It is said that only by acceding to our demands in Cuba could this loss possibly be averted. Spain, it is argued, is confronted with a situation which promises naught save disaster in case she elects to force more fighting. The superiority of the American fleet has been demonstrated in the Pacific, and the same it is contended would be inevitable in the Atlantic in case the clash comes.

From whatever point of view it is considered, the policy of more fighting on the part of Spain promises nothing but more Spanish misfortune. Navy officers think this view must prevail with the Spanish government, and believe an end of the war, on the basis of Cuban independence, is to follow soon, and that, too, without further notable opportunity for the American navy to prove its power and distinguish itself.

It is regarded by some as likely that the decisive victory gained by Admiral Dewey's squadron may open the eyes of Spain to the seriousness of the conflict upon which she has entered.

In official circles it is regarded as almost certain that results of a most serious nature will confront the Sagasta cabinet within Spain's own borders. It is said that the Spanish people have been led to believe that their navy was invincible, and the bitter disappointment over the first engagement of the war is likely to precipitate internal dissension, if not revolution.

Probable Result of the Victory.

Another result of Admiral Dewey's victory, it is thought, may be action on the part of the powers of Europe to induce Spain to abandon what is regarded as a hopeless contest.

In the dispatches from Madrid, the statement was made that Admiral Dewey effected a landing on the west side of Manila bay for the men of his fleet who were wounded in the engagements.

As soon as the junction of the American and insurgent forces—the one at sea and the other on land—is effected, a demand is likely to be made for the surrender of the city, and, in the event of refusal, a combined attack will be made on it.

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 significance 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 Cabanas, 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 postoffice 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.