

DEFEATED BY THE CUBANS

Two Hundred of Weyler's Men Fell.

URGENT LOSS WAS SMALL

operate but Ineffectual Attempts Were Made to Capture and Kill the Captain-General.

New York, Aug. 16.—A special to Herald from Havana via Key West: Further details have been received of the battle near Aguacate, which is near the Matanzas line. The fighting, it was first reported, was in Matanzas province, but it was just on the side. There is no doubt of the result of the battle, however, and a conservative estimate places the number of Spanish killed at 200, while the rebel loss was comparatively trifling.

Preparations for General Weyler's arrival at the palace were made on Monday, but he has only just returned from the field. He left Matanzas on Sunday and reached Aguacate the next day. It was there that a rumor came that he was wounded in the big fight near Aguacate, but the statement has proved to be false.

The excitement in Havana is intense. The uncertainty regarding the new ministry in Spain is partly to blame, and on top of this there comes news of a big insurgent victory between Aguacate and Matanzas, and also of a pitched battle in the vicinity of Sagua la Grande.

The advance guard of General Gomez has crossed into Matanzas. Whether the close cannot be ascertained, but it is reported that he declined the fight at Sagua la Grande.

The largest battle that has taken place in several months was the one fought at Aguacate. It is known that the battle was the result of an attempt to capture General Weyler and kill him. The captain-general had made preparations to return on horseback from Matanzas to Havana. Along the way he had posted three columns of Spanish soldiers. General Castillo learned of his plans and gathered a force of fully 1,500 rebels. This force he hurled against the Spanish lines near Aguacate where General Weyler was supposed to be. General Castillo commanded the insurgents in person, and the Spanish were under General Alita. The insurgents dispersed, but later accounts are that both Colonel Aldea and General Molino were wounded.

The battle began about 4 o'clock in the afternoon and continued till night. The Spanish were ranked along the open road and the rebels approached them from the rear, coming from the hills. A body of cavalry was stationed about a quarter of a mile down the road to cut off Weyler if he should be there and attempt to seek safety.

The details of the actual fighting are meager, but many reliable persons who passed near the place, which is beside the railroad station, say that from the carriage windows they could see many dead soldiers along the road. The rebels used rapid-firing guns. When darkness came the Spaniards retired, to return the next morning with heavy reinforcements, but the insurgents only opened fire for about half an hour and then disappeared. They divided into small bands and subsequent pursuit was futile.

Information has also been received of the big fight near Sagua la Grande. It is said the town was attacked and that a portion of it was burned, but this has not been verified. Correspondence from the field, however, proves that there has been a battle there, Gomez in person, it is said, directing the insurgent operations.

After the fight at Aguacate, General Weyler fell back upon Guanabacoa, just across the bay from Havana. The rebel chiefs, Colonel Arnaguera and General Rodriguez, were in the district and Weyler expected a raid.

Weyler arrived at Guanabacoa with 4,000 men. Five miles from Guanabacoa he was attacked by a rebel force under General Rodriguez. Rodriguez's plan was to force General Weyler to give battle and pursue him into the hills, where the captain-general stood a good chance of being either killed or captured. The rebels fired several volleys from the hills along the roadside, killing 17 and wounding a large number of the Spanish, but Weyler refused to give fight and kept on his march to Guanabacoa, driving 300 head of cattle that he had collected along the line. General Rodriguez followed in Weyler's rear to within sight of the town. After the rebels withdrew the Spanish troops commenced a heavy fire, the noise of which awakened and frightened the residents of Guanabacoa.

A train running from Mariano in Havana province was fired upon recently. The American vice-consul, Mr. Springer, was on the train. Bullets struck near him, but he escaped unhurt.

Gold Discoveries.

New Orleans, Aug. 16.—A new gold field has been discovered, but this one is in the tropics. Reports have come to this city lately that big finds of gold have been made in Nicaragua, and steamers from that section have been bringing in gold dust in proof of it.

FIRST BLOOD SHED.

A Riot Almost Precipitated Among the Strikers.

Pittsburg, Aug. 16.—Injunctions by the court have put a stop to marches by the strikers against the New York & Cleveland Gas Coal Company, for a time at least. But in the execution of the injunction the sheriff and his deputies narrowly escaped precipitating serious trouble. As it was, the first blood of the strike was shed. Henry Stewart, one of the sheriff's deputies, struck Jacob Mott, a drummer of the McDonald band, with the edge of a brass horn, and cut a severe gash above his eye.

The sight of the blood wrought up the 1,000 idle miners to such a pitch that a desperate conflict was imminent. The deputies also were excited and noisy. The strikers were jeering and yelling and urging a further rush. There were enough of the miners to annihilate the deputies. Captain Bellingham, Sheriff Lowrey, Chief Deputy James Richards and Superintendent DeArmitt were the only cool men in the assemblage. To them and to Captain Bellingham belongs the credit of avoiding a riot.

When Bellingham saw there was danger of his men getting beyond his control, he commanded a halt and addressed himself to the task of restraining the more belligerent. So well were his efforts directed that he soon had restored comparative order.

Sheriff Lowrey had a difficult task to perform, but he handled it well, and by his coolness and good nature, did much to neutralize the bitterness and strife invited by his subordinates. The strikers finally retired and marched back to their camp. There were several other brushes with the deputies, but no actual collisions.

After the miners returned to camp, the officers held a conference with their attorney, and he advised them to quit marching until the court had heard the argument over a bill in equity brought by the New York & Cleveland Gas Coal Company, as it might injure their case if they were brought up for contempt before the court.

President Dolan then issued orders that no more marches should be made to any of the New York & Cleveland Company's mines until further orders, though marches may be made at other places.

There were no signs of trouble to-night. The strikers remained within their camp, and while the deputies were on guard they had little to do. In order to more thoroughly fortify his position, Sheriff Lowrey swore in 20 additional deputies tonight, and dispatched them to Plum creek.

AN ARIZONA STORM.

A Cloudburst Does Great Damage to Property.

Nogales, Ariz., Aug. 16.—Southern Arizona and Northern Mexico have been visited by a terrific rain storm. All telegraph lines between Nogales and Guaymas are down, and a great part of the Sonora railway is washed out. The track between Nogales Encinas, a distance of 16 miles, is almost entirely gone. A train started to leave Guaymas this morning, but it was detained by the Mexican government. There was a cloudburst which filled the stream which flows through the place and flooded the greater part of Nogales. Three bridges were washed away. Several houses were washed away and a number of Mexican families are homeless. The residence of Arilo Ramiriz, the mayor, was destroyed.

Marta Esperanza Sacked by Cubans.

Key West, Fla., Aug. 16.—Marta Esperanza, a town in Santa Clara province, was attacked by insurgents recently, who entered the town at 3 P. M., and left at 4 A. M., sacking all the stores and taking merchandise, clothes, drugs, money, etc. The Spanish force made resistance, but the insurgents defeated them with little trouble. The Spanish loss was heavy. The Cubans lost one killed and several wounded. The forces of General Montano came to the aid of the town, arriving one day late. They took arms and ammunition from the guerrillas who remained in the town, although most of them had joined the insurgents. Then they burned about 30 houses belonging to Cubans. Calixto Alvarez attacked and sacked the towns of La Encrucijada, Cruces and Placetas. The Spanish forces made no resistance. These towns are in the pacified province of Santa Clara.

Lady Rescued From Death.

The Dalles, Or., Aug. 16.—Fire totally destroyed the Michelbach building, on Second street, occupied by Mrs. Britton as a lodging-house, at 1 A. M. It was a fierce, hot blaze, and only prompt action on the part of the fire department avoided a general conflagration. The origin of the fire is unknown. The building was insured for \$1,000 in the Hamburg-Bremen, and Mrs. Britton's furniture was insured for \$600. One of the occupants, Mrs. Gage, narrowly escaped being burned to death. She was overcome and suffocated, and lay prostrate on the floor, but was reached in time by Fireman C. G. Stacey.

The mouth of the octopus is in the center of his body and is provided with a beak closely resembling that of a parrot.

LIFE AT SKAGUAY.

The Trail Already Blocked and More Men and Horses Coming.

Seattle, Aug. 13.—A special to the Post-Intelligencer from Mount Vernon says:

A number of letters were received here today from Mount Vernon people who left Seattle on the steamer Queen for the Yukon, telling of life at Skaguay. In a letter to E. W. Ferris, dated Skaguay, August 13, ex-City Marshal Rowan says:

"We got here on the 26th of July. I am camped here for the winter. The rest of the men are about four and a half miles from here, packing their outfits. They had them hauled for three miles at one cent a pound. They have been four days in making one mile, and it is about 36 miles from where they are to the lakes. It is impossible for them to make it. It is raining all the time. They boys are discouraged, and I feel sorry for them, as they cannot get to the summit before snow falls.

"There are about 400 horses and 700 men on the trail. You can't get anybody to pack for you. They are offering \$30 per 100 pounds to pack over to the lakes. There were 105 head of horses, which came over on the Islander, and they will block the trail in the next 10 days. I got about three miles from here, and I came back as soon as I found I could not make it. There are lots of men camped here waiting for snow. I am taking it easy, and working for \$2.50 and board. I am going in in February. This is the greatest excitement I ever saw, men packing in the rain in all the rigs a man can think of to pack with. One man has a bicycle to pack on. I counted 107 tents here last night, and they average from two to six men to the tent. There were lots of them that sold out on the Islander, and went back. Outfits that cost \$150 are selling all the way from \$30 to \$100 each. They are offering 30 cents a pound for packing 31½ miles. An Indian was killed at Dyea this morning for stealing. The inspector and mounted police are at Lake Bennett, and it will cost each man about \$50 to pass. Two-horse teams are making from \$60 to \$100 a day."

A LETTER FROM DAWSON.

The Camp Well Supplied With Provisions at the Present Time.

Tacoma, Aug. 13.—B. L. Laughlin writes from Dawson, Alaska, under date of June 15:

"Five-hundred-foot claims on two creeks are selling at prices ranging from \$10,000 to \$150,000 each. There are about 150 claims that are good on these two creeks. An acquaintance bought a claim in February for \$45,000 on the installment plan, and was to make the last payment July 1, but did not need so much time, for he paid the last day we arrived. He has 480 feet of ground left, and a surplus of \$15,000. The pay streak is from 40 to 80 feet wide, and the pay is in and on the bed-rock. These are drift diggings, and have to be worked in the winter time. The ground is from 15 to 35 feet deep. "Times will be quiet here until about October 1, when there will be work for 4,000 or 5,000 men. There is a small sawmill here, and lumber is worth \$130 per 1,000, and scarce at that. The camp was not struck until August, and it is estimated that the output is about \$2,500,000 to date, and will probably be \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 next year. The companies think they can supply sufficient food for the winter. There will be about 1,100 people come from the outside this year, and I expect as many thousand, or more, next year. The weather is nice at the present time.

"The Circle City camp is about deserted, and the claim owners are offering \$12.50 per day and board.

"The camp is well supplied with provisions at the present time. Flour is worth \$12 a hundred, bacon 50 and 60 cents a pound, beans 12½ cents, coffee 75 cents, milk 50 cents per per can, table fruit 75 cents per can, shovels \$3 each. If any one should want to come here this summer or fall I would advise them to come by the mouth of the Yukon. In early spring, they should come by the land and water route."

THE WHEAT SHORTAGE.

Europe Will Draw Heavily on the United States.

London, Aug. 13.—The Times, in its financial article today, says: "It is estimated by persons in a position to form an opinion that at least 12 per cent more wheat than is usually needed by Europe will be wanted this year. Owing to short Russian, French and Austro-Hungarian crops, the United States will be the only country able to meet this extra demand."

Chicago Wheat Goes Up.

Chicago, Aug. 13.—September wheat advanced 3 cents today, and closed strong at 81½ cents, the highest point touched by September wheat since 1891. Crop news from the Northwest, and the decline in condition shown by the government crop report were the chief factors.

Dynamite Explosion in a Mine.

St. Louis, Aug. 13.—W. H. Madern and Taylor Dodson were killed today by an explosion of dynamite in a lead mine near Bonne Terre, Mo. Two others were seriously injured.

STEAMER MEXICO SUNK.

First Disaster Connected With the Alaska Rush.

San Francisco, Aug. 12.—A special from Victoria to the Chronicle says:

For several days anxious inquiries have been made regarding the Pacific Coast steamer Mexico, which was booked to leave tomorrow on her second trip to Dyea.

The steamer Topeka, which arrived here this evening, reports that the steamer Mexico, on August 5, while going into Dixon entrance from Sitka during a heavy fog at full speed, struck West Devil's rock. After two hours the steamer sank in 500 feet of water, stern first.

The captain exhibited great coolness, and, with the officers, did everything that was possible.

The passengers and crew were saved, with their hand baggage, in small boats. After rowing till midnight, they arrived at Metlakatla.

The time the ship struck is believed to be 4 in the morning.

The ship is a total loss. The passengers and crew are on the Topeka.

Captain Wallace and his officers quietly waited their turn to be lowered over the side into the boats. This was performed without a hitch, with splendid discipline.

After the passengers were safely off the ship, the officers and crew turned their attention to the hand baggage, which the passengers had in their cabins, and the treasure and valuables belonging to the steamer.

There was no time to attempt to save anything stowed below decks, and as it was, everything in the cabins was not secured, though the captain and crew stayed on the steamer until it was no longer safe to do so.

They had not been away from her many minutes when she made a final plunge and went down, stern first.

She struck on her starboard bilge keel and a gaping hole was torn in her side. Only a short time before, orders were sent to the engineer to send her full ahead, and, consequently, she went right through the rocks.

Had she been an iron vessel, few would have lived to tell of the accident. She would have gone down like a rock.

At New Metlakatla, where they had to spend several days awaiting the arrival of the Topeka, news of the wreck having been sent to her by the steamer Al-Ki, the passengers and crew had their wants attended to by Rev. Mr. Duncan and his Indians.

Of the 775 passengers, 40 were tourists, who made the round trip, and others were coming south from different Alaskan ports. Included in the latter were naturalists who had spent the summer in Western Alaska collecting specimens for the Columbia museum. Their specimens, instruments and notes went down with the steamer.

A Four Days' Clean-Up.

Redding, Cal., Aug. 12.—J. B. and R. B. Graves boarded the overland train tonight, having in their possession \$42,000 in gold, the result of four days' work on Morrison gulch, a tributary of Coffee creek, beyond Carville, in Trinity county. They have been mining on the gulch for a year past, and ran a tunnel into a ledge of red and black iron formation 3½ feet wide. They struck several pockets of pure gold embedded in the ledge, one of the purest yielding \$4,000, while several others yielded from \$3,000 to \$500. On August 4, at a point 25 feet from the mouth of the tunnel, and 12 feet from the surface, they uncovered a large pocket of pure gold. In four days they took out 163 pounds, avoirdupois weight. The largest piece was three feet long, two feet wide and five inches thick. The pocket yielded \$42,000. The ledge is still intact, and averages from \$300 to \$500 per ton.

The Electrical Chair.

Danmora, N. Y., Aug. 12.—Frank C. Conroy, the Ogdensburg wife-murderer, was executed by electricity at Clinton prison today. Conroy was pronounced dead 4½ minutes after the first shock. He walked between Fathers Belanger and Cotter until supported to the chair, his eyes upon the crucifix and praying. He met his fate calmly.

On the morning of May 20, 1896, Frank Conroy returned to his home in Ogdensburg from Montreal. Walking into the house he accused his wife of unfaithfulness. Angered at her denials, he snatched up a carving-knife and hacked her head and throat until she was dead. His two little daughters, aged 5 and 7, witnessed the murder.

Dressed Beef on the Rise.

Kansas City, Aug. 12.—The wholesale price of dressed beef by all the big packers has been raised. The lowest price on dressed beef now is 6 cents, whereas on Saturday fair to good Western beef could be bought for 4½ to 5½ cents. Better grades were raised in proportion. The best grades of bacon were also raised 1½ cents per pound. The dealers claim that the raise in price is proof positive that the big combine, about which so much has been heard lately, is a fact, and that it has begun the expected squeezing process. They declare that they will go into a combine of their own and butcher their own meat. The packers deny that there is any combine.

The greatest length of England and Scotland, north and south, is about 608 miles.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Downing, Hopkins & Company's Review of Trade.

The short sellers of wheat have but a single argument left to support their views, viz: The admitted fact that the wheat crop of this country will be at least 100,000,000 bushels larger than that of last year. The current news during the week has been extremely bullish and developments have materially strengthened the position of speculative buyers. Probably the most important announcement was Beerbohm's estimate placing the European shortage compared with last year at 224,000,000 bushels. This has been emphasized and confirmed by the active cash demand and enormous sales for export. An additional aid in enhancing values has been furnished by the farmers stacking their wheat at a greater extent than usual. Should the coal miners' strike continue a fortnight longer it will prove a powerful, although unnatural, factor in enhancing values, and in all probability result in a more serious congestion of the market for September delivery than has prevailed for July contracts. The promise of an abundant wheat crop in America, the absence of competition in supplying the requirements of importing countries, and the consequent increased export demand for American wheat, all tend to benefit the American farmer. Wheat will prove a profitable purchase on all reactions and the general tendency is toward a still higher range of values.

The American visible this week shows a decrease of 164,000 bushels, and now totals 17,650,000 bushels against 46,429,000 a year ago. There is much to be said regarding both sides of the corn market, but after all is said it is still a fact that values are extremely low—due to panic and overproduction. The growing crop is not yet assured, and with the enhancing values ruling for wheat compared with producing years, the increasing activity in general trade, corn must participate to a greater or less extent in the general improvements, according as the crop promise to be above or below that of last year. In any event, present values promise to be well maintained, and there is little if any inducement for speculative short selling. Should the growing crop meet with any mishap much higher values will quickly obtain.

Portland Markets.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 78c; Valley, 81c per bushel.

Flour—Best grades, \$4.15; graham, \$3.65; superfine, \$2.25 per barrel.

Oats—Choice white, 38¢40¢; choice gray, 37¢39¢ per bushel.

Barley—Feed barley, \$16@16.50; brewing, \$18@19 per ton.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$14 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$15.50.

1.—Timothy, \$12@13; clover, \$10@11; California wheat, \$10@11; do oat, \$11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.

Eggs—12@12½c per dozen.

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

Cheese—Oregon, 11½¢; Young America, 12½¢; California, 9¢10¢ per pound.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.00@3.50 per dozen; broilers, \$1.50@2.75; geese, \$3@4; ducks, \$2.50@3 per dozen; turkeys, live, 10¢11c per pound.

Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35¢45¢ per sack; new potatoes, 50¢ per sack; sweets, \$1.90@2.25 per cental.

Onions—California, new, red, \$1.25; yellow, \$1.50 per cental.

Hops—10@11½c per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4¢6¢.

Wool—Valley, 11@13c per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7@9c; mohair, 20c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 2¼@2½c; dressed mutton, 4½c; spring lambs, 5½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4; light and feeders, \$2.50@3; dressed, \$3@4.25 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, \$2.75@3; cows \$2.25; dressed beef, 4@5½c per pound.

Veal—Large, 3@3½c; small, 4½c per pound.

Seattle Markets.

Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 18c; ranch, 10@12c.

Cheese—Native Washington, 10@11c; California, 9½c.

Eggs—Fresh ranch, 18@19c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 10@11c; spring chickens, \$3@3.50; ducks, \$2.50@3.75.

Wheat—Feed wheat, \$28 per ton.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$23.

Corn—Whole, \$22; cracked, per ton, \$22; feed meal, \$22 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$22; whole, \$21.

Fresh Meats—Choice dressed beef, steers, 6c; cows, 5½c; mutton sheep, 6c; pork, 6½c; veal, small, 6c.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 4½c; salmon, 4@5c; salmon trout, 7@10c; flounders and sole, 3@4; ling cod, 4@5; rock cod, 5c; smelt, 2½@4c.

San Francisco Markets.

Wool—Choice foothill, 9@12c; San Joaquin, 6 months' 8@10c; do year's staple, 7@9c; mountain, 11@13c; Oregon, 10@13c per pound.

Hops—7@9c per pound.

Hay—Wheat, \$12@15; wheat and oat, \$11@14; oat, \$10@12; river barley, \$7@8; best barley, \$9@12; alfalfa, \$7@8.50 clover, \$7.50@9.