

STARVATION WILL CEASE

End of Reconcentration in the Island of Cuba.

BLANCO ANNULS FORMER EDICT

Latest Order Liberates All the Sufferers of the Island—Spain Weakening Greatly Under Pressure.

Havana, April 2.—Captain-General Blanco has issued an important decree, dated March 30, and published this morning, in which he directs the end of reconcentration in the four western provinces, Pinar del Rio, Havana, Matanzas and Santa Clara.

The preamble sets forth that the pacification of the eastern provinces having been considerably advanced by the combined action of arms and the natural effect of the establishment of autonomy in giving security to the country, making possible the advancement of the sugar, tobacco and food crops; it also being near the time when the minor plantings give the means of living to the laboring classes and peasants; also believing the time has come to resume the normal conditions in the towns and villages, to do away with the cause of suffering among the people, to remove so far as possible all the effects of the concentrados and further to give complete liberty to all the country people to return to such places as they desire to do such labor as they may select, this order is issued.

The preamble further says that for the reconcentrados who are without resources or instruments with which to labor remaining in towns or centers previously set apart for their use, the colonial government proposes to the governor-general a plan of relief. In this plan, the mayors and alcaldes are expected to take part, establishing soup kitchens, etc., and doing all in their power to terminate the existing misery. After the preamble, the order continues:

"Article 1. After the publication of this order, the reconcentrados and their families will be allowed to return home in the four provinces given above.

"Article 2. Orders all relief committees and military authorities to facilitate the workings of the decree and also to aid the reconcentrados in securing new houses.

"Article 3. Directs the colonial government, through its secretary and ministerial officers, to prepare to execute all necessary orders to secure for the country people work on public improvements and also to give food by economical kitchens to all suffering, attention being called to those on the small country estates.

"Article 4. All the expenses over and above the funds now in the hands of the committee are to be provided for under the head of an extraordinary war credit.

"Article 5. All former orders of reconcentration are abrogated."

QUEEN REGENT'S APPEAL.

Wrote for Help to the Sovereigns of Europe.

London, April 2.—The Vienna correspondent of the Standard says: The queen regent of Spain, I learn, wrote personally last week to Emperor Francis Joseph and other sovereigns, including Emperor Nicholas, requesting not precisely intervention, but the exercise of such influence at Washington as might conduce to a settlement of the injury to Spain's dignity and vital interests.

To her relatives in Austria her majesty wrote that she regards herself as more fettered than a real sovereign, because she is only a trustee who has undertaken to hand over to a son an inheritance from his father unimpaired and uninjured.

"I am in a difficult position," she said, "having to act as a guardian of the dynasty which I must not expose to any danger. To surrender Cuba in any form will unquestionably be injuring the dynasty under which such surrender occurred, whereas to fight for it would keep these interests intact, together with my country's honor. But the disadvantages Spain would have to fight under are obvious, and a peaceful solution would best serve every purpose."

I do not pretend to give the text of the queen regent's letter, but only the general sense. The recipients have been deeply impressed by the seriousness of such communication from a woman of remarkable energy and sense of duty, confronted by such a momentous crisis.

A Cuban's Revenge.

Havana, April 2.—It is announced that Lieutenant-Colonel Benedicto, who commanded the Spanish forces which killed the insurgent leader Aranguren, while visiting the house of Dr. Francisco Vidal, at Guanabacoa, has been wounded by a revolver shot in the neck. The colored man who fired the shot escaped.

La Lucha's Threats.

Havana, April 2.—La Lucha, in an editorial, says:

"We are at the end of the farce which has held the stage until now. Heaven should apprise Senor Sagasta that he is near the end, not only of his political career, but also of his life."

FLEET READY FOR ACTION.

Extraordinary Preparations Under Way at Key West.

Key West, April 2.—Every preparation for action was taken by the warships today. The woodwork was stripped off exposed spots and sent ashore. The wooden pilot-houses on the cruisers were taken down. Even the steerer's wooden box was removed from some ships. These precautions have been adopted to prevent, as far as possible, the danger of flying splinters in case of action. The officers sent their personal valuables and belongings to be stored on shore.

The Castine and two torpedo-boats left their anchorage after dark, and steamed to the southward, where they will patrol during the night. This precaution was ordered by Captain Sampson today. He is particularly anxious to watch closely the southern entrance to this harbor, and also to afford additional safety for the Iowa, Indiana and New York, which lie unprotected six miles out.

The naval station officials have received orders to overhaul their marine engineering stock, so that it could be used instantly in case of emergency.

The establishment of a patrol is considered by the few who know of it as most significant. The entire fleet is now in readiness to move at 15 minutes' notice.

The five bodies from the Maine brought here last night were buried today with the usual simple ceremony.

ASKED BLANCO'S OPINION.

How the Situation Now Appears in Madrid.

New York, April 2.—A dispatch to the World from Madrid says: The Spanish government has wired the substance of the negotiations between this country and the United States to Captain-General Blanco, at Havana, with a view of obtaining his opinion on the disposition of the insular government, the autonomist and other colonial parties, and as to what disposition the army and the volunteers would show toward the contemplated means to hasten the pacification of Cuba.

While conflicting impressions prevail in political and diplomatic circles on the issue of the negotiations, the impression is that the government will do its best to secure peace by reasonable concessions to America and Cuba, although complete independence may not be conceded.

A GERMAN BLUFF.

An Effort Made to Secure Possession of Liberia.

New York, April 2.—Joseph Hartzell, an American Methodist bishop in Africa, who has just arrived from the Dark Continent, says that while he was in Liberia a German gunboat arrived and demanded \$11,500 indemnity for an alleged offense to a German subject. The indemnity was calculated as follows:

Damages to property, \$3,500; \$3,500 for threatening to stab the German and \$4,500 for the expense of collecting the money with a gunboat.

President Coleman refused to pay, whereupon the commander of the gunboat told him that Germany would waive the claim for indemnity if a treaty was entered into placing Liberia under Germany's protectorate. This was also declined and President Coleman commissioned Bishop Hartzell to endeavor to move England and the United States to back Liberia in its effort to remain independent of German and French interference.

The bishop says he has laid the matter before the British government and now intends taking it to the government at Washington.

Beach's Advice to the Cubans.

Washington, April 2.—Representative C. B. Beach, of Ohio, sent the following telegram to President Palma, of the Cuban junta:

"Having maintained the war for three years by their own bravery, resources and sacrifices, unprecedented in all history, will the Cubans accept compromise when they can overhear in the throat of their brutal enemy a death rattle? God forbid! Will compromise give you back your son? Will it unrape your daughter? Will it revive the mother who urged them on with the breath which starvation allowed? Fight it out. Uncle Sam is dusting off his uniform."

For Relief of Cubans.

Washington, April 2.—Representative Wheeler introduced a bill today appropriating \$500,000 to purchase provisions for the use of Cuban non-combatants, and directing the president to cause them to be conveyed at once to the starving people, and to use as much of the military and naval forces as necessary to attain this purpose. It also directs the president to notify the Spanish government that this proceeding is an act of humanity, and not intended as an act of war.

Freight Trains Collide.

Chattanooga, Tenn., April 1.—Two heavy freight trains on the Western & Atlantic railroad collided today near Adairsville, Ga. Engineer Elliot was instantly killed and Engineer McArdee fatally injured. The trains were completely demolished and a score of cars smashed into kindling wood. Several brakemen were badly injured.

SPAIN GIVES IN.

Reconcentrado Order Is Partially Rescinded.

Washington, April 1.—The Spanish legation here late tonight received a cablegram from the governor-general of Cuba, saying the pacification of the eastern provinces is so far advanced that it has been decided to rescind the reconcentrado order in three provinces and allow all subjects of this decree to return to their homes in the country.

To aid in the re-establishment of the reconcentrados upon their farms, the cablegram states the government will grant them the protection of the Spanish military forces, augmented by local relief committees to look after their immediate needs.

Economic kitchens, it says, are to be established to support the reconcentrados while awaiting for their first crops to mature, and they are to be furnished farming implements and seeds by the government.

To supply them with ready money, such of them as are able will be given employment on public works, and it is asserted by the authorities that these measures will result in the speedy rehabilitation of rural communities in the western provinces.

This cablegram was not made public till more than an hour after midnight, and no official comment upon its significance could be secured.

SPAIN REALIZES HER POSITION.

Knows That There Is but One Thing to Do, and That Is to Give In.

Madrid, April 1.—While the situation here is outwardly of the calmest description, the actual position of affairs is regarded as critical by both the United States legation and the Spanish government. The United States minister, General Stewart Woodford, is working and will continue to work energetically for peace until the first gun is fired. It is known the Spanish admits the desirability or necessity of complying with the demands of the United States, and it is only in the disinclination of the ministers to put this willingness in concrete form where the danger lies. If a conference were to be held with the German or French diplomats, the matter would be settled without question. The point which General Woodford is now pressing is that in the interest of humanity, hostilities in Cuba must cease immediately. No date was fixed either in the first or in the present note, but the United States is now dwelling upon the "immediately," and insisting that Spain accept its general interpretation. The public generally is taking little apparent interest in the situation, but there is a general disinclination to believe that war is likely.

A dispatch from Barcelona says that the armed steam yacht Giralda, purchased by the Spanish government from Harry McCalmont, the English racehorse owner, after the vessel had been rejected by the United States, is now being fitted up as a dispatch boat.

El Pais says four warships have been obtained by Spain in France, and that negotiations are pending for the purchase of several torpedo-boats in Great Britain. El Pais also says that orders have been issued to mobilize all the Spanish war ships, and that the torpedo-boat Halcón is to sail immediately from Cartagena for Cadiz, where a second torpedo squadron is being prepared. Military engineers are starting for the Canary islands, and the Balearic islands are being fortified.

Italy, it is said by El Pais, has decided to sell the armored cruiser Giuseppe Garibaldi, of 6,840 tons, well armored, a sister ship of the Varese, to Spain.

Two regiments, according to El Pais, are going to the Canary islands to strengthen the Spanish garrison there.

El Pais sees in the meeting between General Woodford and the Spanish minister yesterday an indication that the United States is "gaining time and waiting for the rainy season, so as to take Spain at a disadvantage in Cuba."

The Armstrongs' Spanish agent, a Spaniard who is in touch with the government and commercial people in Spain, has expressed the belief that unless the powers intercede, there will be war.

Maine Relief Bill a Law.

Washington, April 1.—The act for the relief of the sufferers by the Maine disaster was today approved by the president.

The most significant of the naval orders issued by the navy department recently was the detachment of Commander Horace M. Elmer, from Cramps' ship yard, and ordering him to duty "in the mosquito fleet." This auxiliary organization of the navy, which is to be called into service in time of war, is to be composed of small craft of all kinds that may be obtainable by the department upon which a gun may be mounted, and other defensive devices placed. As far as practicable, it is the intention of the department that there shall be a separate set of ships for the defense of the seacoast cities, the whole to compose the "mosquito fleet." In the event of necessity for a rendezvous of several of these local fleets it can be arranged, as the primary idea is for each local fleet to form the "mobile defense" of the particular city where it will be called into service to assist in furnishing armament for vessels, and in the event of war, naval officers will be assigned to the command of each of the several local fleets.

BENEFIT TO THE NORTHWEST.

Complete Success of the Mining and Irrigation Congress at Baker City.

The mining and irrigation congress which met in Baker City last week, will prove of much benefit to the Northwest. Much enthusiasm was manifested throughout its sessions, and when final adjournment was taken, it was with a feeling that the convention had been a success. It was Baker City's first experience in entertaining a crowd of that character, and its citizens had cause to be gratified at the result. The town surprised itself by its achievement. As the citizens and visitors became better acquainted, more informality came into the proceedings, and miners and capitalists got closer together, and the vastness of the mineral resources of the region was better appreciated. All felt a personal interest in mining and irrigation, and no one was so wise that he did not get new and broader ideas, and perhaps more special knowledge of those matters so essential to the industrial development of the great Northwest.

The last day a constitution and by-laws for a permanent organization was reported, and, after some discussion, adopted. The name chosen was the Mining and Irrigation Congress; object, to promote and foster mining and irrigation enterprises and other kindred industries; the officers to be a president, a vice-president from each state, who shall choose the secretary and treasurer; the meetings to be held annually, at a time and place to be selected by the congress; the congress to be composed of delegates from Oregon, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Montana, California and Nevada, to be appointed as follows: Seven by the governor of each state; one by the mayor of each city; three by each chamber of commerce, commercial club, board of trade or other similar organization in each city; three from each county, to be appointed by the county judge or chairman of the county board; three from each regularly organized mining district within the states. The committee on legislation will consist of two members from each state, who will present a written report at each annual congress.

When it came to selecting a place for the next meeting, J. F. Batchelder named Portland as the commercial and financial metropolis of the Northwest, where facilities for accommodating a great gathering and for a display of mining machinery and methods of reducing ores could be found. R. W. Paris proposed Boise as able to handle a big convention, it being more centrally located with respect to the mining states, being itself in the center of a vast region, whose chief industries the congress would relate to. C. A. Johns named Baker City. A dozen speeches were made by partisans of the different places. A ballot resulted as follows: Portland, 41; Boise, 14; Baker City, 6.

Portland was made the unanimous choice.

The time for holding the next meeting was fixed for the first Tuesday in December, 1898, after a long discussion, bringing out seasonable demands of place and quartz mining and irrigation farming and after reference to a committee of three whose report was adopted. Albert Geiser, of Baker City, was unanimously elected permanent president of the organization. The following vice-presidents were chosen:

Oregon—Ole J. Olsen, Grants Pass; Idaho—State Engineer F. J. Mills, Boise; Washington—Dr. J. M. Boyd, Spokane; Utah—Thomas D. Lee, Ogden. The executive committee is composed of the following:

Oregon—Fred R. Mellis, Baker City, and J. F. Batchelder, Portland; Idaho—A. D. Morrison, Idaho Falls, and J. F. Hunt, Downey; Washington—G. B. Dennis and A. P. Curry, Spokane; Utah—R. S. Campbell, Salt Lake City, and R. C. Lund, St. George.

Members of the legislative committee: Oregon—C. A. Johns, Baker City, and E. J. Frasier, Eugene; Idaho—John C. Rice, Caldwell, and Edgar Wilson, Boise; Washington—J. J. Browne and Colonel Lindsley, Spokane; Utah—David Keith, Salt Lake City, and H. H. Rolapp, Ogden.

The governors of California, Nevada, Colorado, Wyoming and Montana will be asked to make appointments for their respective states.

A committee presented resolutions to the effect that only questions pertaining to mining and irrigation should be discussed before the congress; urging immediate action for a mineral exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi exposition from the several states represented in the congress; acknowledging appreciation of and extending hearty thanks to the citizens of Baker City for the many courtesies and attentions received.

Captain Robley D. Evans, who goes into command of the war ship Iowa, vice Captain Sampson, has no rival for popularity in Washington, or in the navy department. The captain is quoted as having said recently that if he had his way "there would be nothing but Spanish talked in — for the next five years." Evans was in command of the Yorktown during the late trouble with Chile, and he wanted to blow Valparaiso off the earth because of the insults put upon America by the citizens of that town. But the navy department refused, and Evans was commended for the admirable self-restraint he exercised.

WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

Trade Conditions in the Leading Cities of the World.

The belief is pretty general now that Leiter will carry his deal straight through May, and that there will be no more money for the May short at Chicago. There were those who felt in the month that the load would be too heavy for any mortal, and that Leiter would be glad to stop. There are those still who believe the bull campaign will wind up with a loss rather than a profit; but even these believe the loss will be taken abroad and that the Chicago campaign will be closed with a display of fireworks and all the outward signs of triumph. There are clever pit professionals who are of the opinion the deal will run into July. No one can, in fact, ever foretell the end of these huge speculative operations. The weather is the most potent influence. It might make it possible for the whole bull line to be unloaded in advance of May 31, at a huge profit, or it might create such a bearish sentiment the world over as to finally make a loss abroad greatly in excess of any amount exacted from shorts at Chicago. International politics will be a factor; perhaps a very bullish, perhaps a very bearish one. War with Spain would hurt prices on its declaration, but would bull prices finally, and a peaceful end, on the other hand, might jump prices on the first sentiment of relief, but result in a dull, bearish season later. It is not to be forgotten that contract wheat is being poured into the Chicago elevators at the rate of 700,000 bushels per week, and that this stream will be increased as the May delivery day approaches.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 75¢@76¢; Valley and Bluestem, 78¢ per bushel. Flour—Best grades, \$3.85; graham, \$3.40; superfine, \$2.35 per barrel. Oats—Choice white, 37¢@38¢; choice gray, 33¢@34¢ per bushel. Barley—Feed barley, \$17@18.50; brewing, \$20 per ton. Millstuffs—Bran, \$17 per ton; middlings, \$23; shorts, \$17. Hay—Timothy, \$12.50; clover, \$10 @11; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton. Eggs—Oregon, 11¢ per dozen. Butter—Fancy creamery, 45¢@50¢; fair to good, 40¢@45¢; dairy, 35¢@40¢ per roll. Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12½¢; Young America, 13¢@14¢.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3.50@4.00 per dozen; hens, \$4.00@4.50; geese, \$6.00@7.00; ducks, \$6.00@7.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12¢@13¢ per pound. Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, 35¢@45¢ per sack; sweets, \$1.75@2 per cental. Onions—Oregon, \$2.25@2.60 per sack.

Hops—14¢@16¢ per pound for new crop; 1896 crop, 4¢@6¢. Wool—Valley, 14¢@16¢ per pound; Eastern Oregon, 7¢@12¢; mohair, 25¢ per pound. Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 4¢; dressed mutton, 7¢; spring lambs, 5½¢ per pound. Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$4.25; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, \$5.00@5.50 per 100 pounds. Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50@3.75; cows, \$2.50@3; dressed beef, 6½¢@7¢ per pound. Veal—Large, 6¢@6½¢; small, 7¢@8¢ per pound.

Seattle Market.

Potatoes—Yakimas, \$14 per ton; natives, \$11@13; sweets, 2¢ per pound; box of 60 pounds, \$1. Butter—Fancy native creamery, brick, 25¢; ranch, 14¢@15¢; dairy, 16¢; Iowa fancy creamery, 23¢. Cheese—Native Washington, 12¢@13¢; Eastern cheese, 12½¢. Eggs—Fresh ranch, 16¢; California ranch, 14¢.

Meats—Choice dressed beef steers, 8¢; cows, 7¢@7½¢; mutton, 8½¢; pork, 7¢; veal, small, 8¢.

Poultry—Chickens, live, per pound, hens, 13¢; dressed, 14¢; turkeys, live, 12¢; dressed, 16¢.

Fresh Fish—Halibut, 6¢@7¢; steel heads, 7¢@8¢; salmon trout, 12½¢; flounders and sole, 3¢@4¢; tom cod, 4¢; ling cod, 4¢@5¢; rock cod, 5¢; smelt, 3¢@5¢; herring, 4¢.

Olympia oysters, per sack, \$3@3.50. Corn—Whole, \$23; cracked, per ton, \$23; feed meal, \$23 per ton.

Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$23; whole, \$22.

Flour—Patents, per barrel, \$4.25@4.50; straights, \$4.00; California brands, \$4.75; Dakota brands, \$5.40@5.75; buckwheat flour, \$6.

Millstuffs—Bran, per ton, \$17; shorts, per ton, \$18@19.

Feed—Chopped feed, \$18@20 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$24; oil cake meal, per ton, \$35.

Hay—Puget Sound, new, per ton, \$12@14; Eastern Washington timothy, \$18; alfalfa, \$12; straw, \$7.

Wheat—Feed wheat, per ton, \$23.

Oats—Choice, per ton, \$23.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Nevada, 11¢@13¢; Oregon, 12¢@14¢; Southern coast lambs, 7¢@8¢. Millstuffs—Middlings, \$21@23; California bran, \$16.00@16.50 per ton. Onions—Silverskins, \$2.50@2.75 per cental.