

MORE SCANDALS IN MILITARY CIRCLES

Chartering of the Steamer Centennial Meeting Harsh Criticism--The Vessel Has Twice Been Condemned.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4.—Military scandals continue to multiply with startling rapidity. The awarding of military contracts has drawn much adverse criticism, and the sudden discovery that the Presidio military reservation is a military reservation in name only, has created a profound sensation in military and commercial circles, and now comes the scandal concerning the chartering of the steamer Centennial, as a troop ship, to carry the American soldiers to Manila.

The Centennial is thirty years old, and is not rated in Lloyds, and, so far as can be learned, carried no insurance, simply because the company refused to take the risk. As it is, the Centennial has outlived its day of usefulness as a British vessel, and condemned and then sold to the Japanese. Further, it is said that the vessel was condemned by the Japanese and then sold to a Puget Sound syndicate for \$15,000.

The United States government has chartered this old "derelict" to carry the troops to Manila at \$500 per day.

HAVANA'S DEFENSES MADE STRONGER

New Work Being Done Daily Towards Making the Battlements Stronger—Much Difficulty Will Be Experienced in the Capture.

KEY WEST, June 4.—Every day the defenses of Havana are being made stronger, work on them having been steadily carried on since the war began. Nearly all of the new work is being done on the eastern side of the city. If the Spaniards have modern, rapid-fire guns, work of taking Havana is twice as difficult today as it would have been when war started.

BRAVE AMERICANS TO BE REWARDED

The Heroic Crew of the Merrimac Will be Promoted--This Act Demonstrates Dependence That Can be Placed on Our American Sailors.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—Soon after the meeting of the house on Monday a resolution will be introduced, calling on the secretary of the navy to ascertain and report to congress immediately of the seven men, who with the naval constructor, Hobson, formed the crew of the Merrimac just before she was sunk in the channel at the entrance to the harbor at Santiago.

It is the present intention to offer a resolution of thanks to each of the eight men by name. The magnificent bravery which they displayed in volunteering for such a perilous task has excited the admiration of every man in congress who has heard the details, and it is safe to say that if those whose names were known, and if the house was in session tonight, a resolution of thanks would go through unanimously.

The fact that Cervera, under a flag of truce, sent to Sampson his recognition

of this magnificent act of gallantry, is an indication that in volunteering to man the Merrimac eight men, who are now prisoners of war in Santiago, performed an act of great peril, which can scarcely be appreciated at this distance and that there should have been four thousand eager to volunteer for duty, demonstrates more forcibly than could be demonstrated in any other manner that the American navy is composed of men who can be depended on for any sort of perilous duty on any occasion. Every one of the Merrimac's crew is certain to be promoted as soon as they are released, and it is likely that some means will be devised whereby warrants or commissions will be provided for enlisted men.

TROOPS EMBARKING FOR CUBA

Extensive Preparations Being Made for the First Expedition--Destination is Closely Guarded.

TAMPA, Fla., June 4.—All is hurry and bustle among the troops stationed here today, and preparations for embarkation are well under way. It is expected that the expedition will get away today, but owing to the reticence of government officials, nothing positive can be learned regarding the matter. The forward movement from Mobile began yesterday afternoon. The first part of the Fourth army corps to leave camp was the second cavalry, and this was quickly followed by the Third infantry and the Twentieth infantry. These troops marched to the water front, where part of the night was consumed in taking passage on the transports Mattewan, Stillwater, Arkansas, Morgan and Breakwater. General Bates is in command of the expedition.

No information regarding the destination of the expedition is obtainable, but the belief is general that in case the American fleets at Santiago de Cuba succeed in capturing that place and defeating Cervera's squadron, the military forces will not stop in Cuba, but will continue on to Porto Rico, which island they will seize and hold. Additional color is lent to the theory that Sampson and Schley will not await the co-operation of the army in the attack on Santiago, by the confirmed reports of yesterday's attack on the defenses of the harbor, which indicates an intention on the part of the naval officers to force matters to a crisis.

A BRILLIANT ACHIEVEMENT AT SANTIAGO

Old American Collier Blown Up in the Channel.

ESCAPE IS NOW IMPOSSIBLE

Crew of the Merrimac Face Almost Certain Death in Destroying Their Own Vessel--Negotiations for Their Exchange Have Already Been Begun.

KINGSTON, Jamaica, June 4.—The dispatch-boat Dauntless arrived here today bringing the following messages from the American fleet, off Santiago:

Rear-Admiral Sampson Friday morning decided to close the narrow harbor entrance to Santiago by sinking the collier Merrimac, loaded with coal, in the channel. He called for volunteers to go to almost certain death, and 4,000 men offered themselves. Lieutenant Hobson and six men were chosen, and at 4 o'clock Friday morning the Merrimac, under her own steam, entered the channel under a terrific Spanish fire.

The vessel was riddled with projectiles, but she anchored and swung round. Lieutenant Hobson then set off an internal torpedo with an electric attachment. There was an explosion, the Merrimac sunk, and the channel was closed, and apparently Cervera will be unable to escape.

How the Crew of the Merrimac Was Saved.

KINGSTON, Jamaica June 4.—Hobson and the hero crew were saved in the following manner:

Unable after the sinking of their vessel to make their way back through the storm of shot and shell, they rowed into the harbor and up to the Spanish flagship and were taken on board unharmed. The Spanish admiral under a flag of truce, on Friday, sent word to the American admiral that he offered to exchange prisoners, adding that in the meanwhile Hobson and his party would be treated with the greatest kindness.

Spaniards Destroy The Wreck With Dynamite.

PORT AU PRINCE, June 4.—Further news received from Santiago confirms the reports that the bombardment of that place began at 3 o'clock yesterday morning. After the action the Spaniards blew up with dynamite the sunken collier Merrimac, and have been at work clearing the channel so as to, in all probability, allow Admiral Cervera's fleet to put out to sea should the Cadiz squadron arrive in Cuban waters to relieve the blockaded ships.

Of Course, The Dons Claim Another Victory.

MADRID, June 4.—The version of the sinking of the Merrimac, which reaches the minister of marine from Santiago, is as follows:

"A Spanish vessel in front of Santiago sunk an American cruiser. All the members of the crew became prisoners. The rest of the enemy's squadron immediately retired. Two ironclads were seriously damaged during the engagement."

The Spaniards describe the affair as a brilliant Spanish victory.

SPANISH SPIES IN DANGER

Sufficient Information at Hand to Lead to the Capture of These Culprits--DuBosc Considered a Ringleader.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—The secret service agents of the war department are

expected to round up a number of Spanish spies here before morning. It is known that the city is full of the vermin and by a mere accident a United States senator was enabled to locate three of them last night. Today he advised the authorities of his discovery and the men are under surveillance, but it is not probable that any announcement will be made of the arrests at present. The assistant secretary of war, who has control of the secret service, is of the opinion that publicity in connection with such moments is unwise and hereafter there will be no public announcement of military arrests until such time as the government is ready to show its hand.

It is reported today that since an important letter was extracted from the office of DuBosc, the government has apprehended upward of fifty men who were on the list of that wily diplomat. It is known, too, that the state department has taken the initial steps towards the breaking up of the Spanish nest in Montreal. The evidence that DuBosc is using his Canadian headquarters as the base of his operations against the United States, has been presented to the British embassy, and the British ambassador has advised his home government that the secretary of the late Spanish legation is abusing his privilege and is plotting against a friendly power from his asylum in British territory. It is now certain that his stay in Canada will be curtailed very suddenly.

NEWS RESTRICTED IN ARMY CIRCLES

Subordinates Prohibited From Discussing Anything Regarding Movement of Troops--All Information must Come From the Adjutant General.

WASHINGTON, June 4.—Every day the officials of the war department grow more strict about giving any information relative to the movement of troops. Subordinates are prohibited from discussing such matters at all, and all the officials' statements for publication must come through the adjutant general's office. The officials here decided that too much publicity is being given concerning the movements of the troops in the South, and additional orders have been sent to militia authorities in that section, restricting any telegraphic information of this character which has been made thus far, to exercise censorship at Washington, and it is unlikely that such an action will be necessary by forbidding any employes of the government, under the penalty of dismissal, from giving out matter which should not be made public. The press censorship here is rendered unnecessary.

TWENTY MILLIONS OF KLONDIKE GOLD

This Amount, It is Declared, Will Be Shipped From Dawson City for San Francisco Within the Next Two Months.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 4.—The Examiner says:

Within the next two months about \$20,000,000 will be shipped from Dawson City to San Francisco. Most of the treasure is said to be the property of the Alaska Commercial Company, their agents having bought the gold from the miners and given checks in payment. The company will have three vessels on the route between here and St. Michaels this summer, the Bertha, Portland and St. Paul.

The only United States vessel there now is the cutter Bear, and she is on a special mission. The gunboat Wheeling may be sent to St. Michaels to escort the treasure fleet to San Francisco.

Thomas Kendrick, who is on his way to Dawson over the S'keken trail, writes from Glenora that of 1000 men who started by that route, 500 turned back on account of the hardships encountered.

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