



## MORRO OPENS FIRE ON OUR FLEET

Fusillade Continues at Intervals, and the Shots are Fairly Well Aimed.

KEY WEST, June 20.—A government vessel which arrived this morning reports that Morro castle keeps firing heavy shells at the blockading squadron at Havana, and it is not believed such accurate shots can be fired by Spanish gunners. On Friday a 12-inch shell exploded in the neighborhood of the American ships, raising a column of water and smoke 100 feet high.

## SPAIN REFUSES TO GIVE UP HOBSON AND HIS MEN

And to Emphasize That Refusal, Blanco Announces That He Will Hereafter Recognize No Flag of Truce.

WASHINGTON, June 20.—Word was received today from Commodore Watson to the effect that Captain-General Blanco says that the Spanish government refuses to exchange Hobson and his men. It is reported from Key West on the authority of several naval officers that Blanco has notified the commander of the American fleet that he will hereafter recognize no flag of truce.

## THE PHILIPPINES HAVE BEEN DECLARED FREE

Insurgents Proclaim a Provisional Government at Cavite and Renounce Spanish Authority.

CHICAGO, June 20.—A special cable today to the Record from a correspondent with Dewey's fleet reads as follows:

HONG KONG, June 20.—General Filipino officially proclaimed a provisional government in outer Cavite June 12th. There were great ceremonies and a declaration of independence was read renouncing Spanish authority. Aguinaldo was made president and Don Pirondo vice-president.

The insurgent government will not oppose an American protectorate or occupation. The Baltimore sailed today to meet the Charleston and the troopships. The French warship Pascal arrived June 15th. The warship Kaiser is expected daily.

No Change in the Situation at Manila.

MANILA, June 17, via Hong Kong, June 19.—The situation here is unchanged. The insurgents are unable to take Manila, owing to their lack of field guns. They could not take it even if Admiral Dewey permitted, which he will not.

The report that the United States transports from San Francisco have been sighted is not correct. They are expected on June 20th. All the foreigners are leaving in neutral ships.

Insurgents Hold 5000 Prisoners.

HONG KONG, June 20.—A steamer just arrived from Manila says the insurgents hold 4000 Spaniards and 1000 natives prisoners with their equipments.

squadron reports all quiet along the line. She brought an officer of the Cuban army and a pilot who carries important dispatches to Senor Palma from General Rodriguez, the insurgent commander in Havana province.

The Cubans report food supplies in Havana extremely scarce, and that the Spanish army has been placed on half rations. The Cuban officer says that in two weeks the whole population of Cardenas will be starving. He described the people as living on palms buds and dog meat, which he claimed is considered a delicacy.

## SHAFTER, PERHAPS, WILL LAND TODAY

The Capture of Santiago, Army and Navy Men Believe, Will Prove Easier Than Was First Expected.

NEW YORK, June 20.—A special to the Times from Washington says:

The capture of Santiago may turn out to be easier than was expected, but preparations have been made on the assumption that the Spaniards will make a resistance equal to that which would be made by the same number of American troops holding a like position. But the Spanish will be weaker than General Shafter and the fleet combined, while the reports about the activity and efficiency of the insurgents lead army men to hope that their assistance will be of some value.

While there is not much anxiety here concerning General Shafter and his army, there is a universal desire to hear of his arrival and landing. Army and navy men agree in the opinion that if the army reaches Santiago or the point at which it is intended to land before Monday, or even Tuesday, it will have done very well. The transports would not sail at high speed, some of them may have been delayed, and as the fleet would keep together in order to afford the slowest ships the benefit of the convoy, it is observable that the expedition might not reach Santiago until tomorrow or next day.

General Shafter was rather expected to run ahead of the fleet and troops, and to arrive at Santiago or Guantanamo somewhat before the other vessels, taking the risk, which is not considered as great, of meeting with Spanish cruisers. The assumption of naval officers is that any danger of that kind would be reduced by sending one of the convoy vessels along with the Seguncia as a guard for the commanding general.

An officer of the army who has seen a great deal of service and who has a high opinion of the ability of the United States army, expresses the opinion that the campaign against Santiago will be a short one, and that it will not be a show of fighting ability that will give a victory to the men under General Shafter. Although the United States troops are not all properly clad, most of them have good shoes, and all have plenty of food and good medical attention. The case is quite different with the Spanish soldiers. Their commissary is bad, owing to the indifference of the officers to the welfare of the men, for whom they make no sacrifices. Excepting garrisons usually taken care of, the hospital service is inadequate, and to that indifference is attributed the great mortality among the Spanish troops. This officer said the same conditions are found in districts where Spanish military habits are found. The United States forces will be superior as much for the reason that they are fed and paid as for their greater energy as a race.

The war department still keeps secret the exact point of landing of the military expedition to Santiago. It may be at the first harbor, and it may be at the last. Some suggest that there are reasons to believe that both the east and west passages may be utilized.

The early reports from General Shafter following his landing and observation of the situation are expected to give the department an idea of the duration of the campaign. The commander will also instruct the department as to whether on the plans already adopted there are enough men to do the work. If not, a sufficient number, whatever it may be, will be hurried forward to assure success at the earliest possible moment.

## FOOD SCARCE IN PORTO RICO

Prices Have Advanced and Starvation Is Imminent Among the Lower Classes—All Is Uncertainty.

NEW YORK, June 20.—The Herald published the following correspondence

dated San Juan, Porto Rico, June 9th:

Provisions are very scarce, and prices have been increased 75 per cent above the normal. In the interior of the island the conditions are still worse. No work is being done on the estates. Thousands of men are unemployed, and misery and hunger are rife. The local currency is at a low ebb, the rate of exchange being anything from 110 to 145 per cent on gold value.

Since the bombardment of the city May 12th there has been a general feeling of unrest, uneasiness and uncertainty as to what is to come next, as it is too clearly evident that matters will not rest long in statu quo. Where and when the next blow may fall is the all-absorbing question. No American papers have come to hand lately, and it is supposed those that arrived have been suppressed. That is true of those coming by way of St. Thomas. News by cable is utterly unreliable, as passed for publication by the authorities, and the only reliable information is that which comes surreptitiously from St. Thomas.

## MERRITT MAY SAIL FOR PHILIPPINES

Is Becoming Anxious to Get Away—Astor Light Battery Arrived.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 20.—Major-General Merritt may sail for Manila on the cruiser Philadelphia, which has received orders to be ready for sea by July 1st. The prospective governor-general of the Philippines is anxious to reach the islands as soon as possible, and it is asserted he will go on the India of the third fleet of transports. However, he would be somewhat hampered by the slow progress of the vessels, while if he goes on the Philadelphia, he will probably reach Manila fully as soon as the troops under General McArthur. General Otis will go with the fourth squadron.

The Astor light battery, numbering 101 men, including three officers, arrived this morning. The men composing the battery are by far the most handsome-appearing soldiers which have yet arrived in this city. They are thoroughly equipped, their outfit being regulation United States artillery equipment.

One hundred and fifty-one men from the Fifty-first Iowa regiment arrived this morning and marched to Camp Merritt, where they will be equipped.

## MUST HAVE POWERFUL GLASSES

Spain Has Observed Peace Tendencies in the United States.

MADRID, June 20.—Newspapers say the cabinet at its meeting yesterday discussed "the peace tendencies observable in the United States and in certain personages in Spain," but add that Spain will unanimously repudiate "unworthy conditions," holding that peace is only possible "if the conditions are honorable and include retention of the colonies." Government circles affect satisfaction at the situation in Cuba.

Cheap Rates for the Fourth of July.

For the Fourth of July the O. R. & N. Co. will sell tickets from The Dalles to any station in Oregon and return, including Wallula and Walla Walla, Wash., at the rate of one fare for the round trip. Tickets on sale July 21, 22 and 23. Tickets good for return up to and including July 6, 1898.

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## GROWING WORSE AT HAVANA

The Army Said to Have Been Placed on Half Rations—Living on Palms Buds and Dog Meat.

Key West, June 20.—A vessel which arrived this morning from the blockade