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FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT

VOL. XLVIII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, WEDNESDAY MORNING, MAY 25, 1898.

NO. 123

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P. F. PLACIDUS, Director.

HAS SAMPSON DESTROYED SPANISH FLEET?

LIVELY DAY CHRONICLED Reports Seem Correct, but Washington Denies All Rumors Yet Received.

Rumors and Counter-Rumors—Great Activity on All Sides

DONS STILL AT SANTIAGO

Oregon Arrives Safely Home—Sharp Engagement Off Santiago—Vizcaya and Alfonso Reported Sunk.

DEWEY HEARD FROM AGAIN

Still in Control at Manila—Spanish Admiral Will Suffer—They Want Odds—Hawaii Open—Wolsely's Opinion—United States a Winner—Armor Bids.

LOS ANGELES, May 24.—The Times here has received a copy of a telegram sent by Senator Jones in Washington to a friend at Santa Monica which says it is known positively that the United States fleet has destroyed the Spanish squadron under Cervera.

London, May 24.—There are persistent rumors here that the American squadron has destroyed the Spanish fleet.

Key West, May 24.—The movements of the United States fleets which are known here make it absolutely certain that no battle has yet occurred, but an engagement is expected to occur this week. The Spanish fleet has been definitely located.

Washington, May 24.—Every precaution is being made to destroy the Spanish fleet which is off Cuba.

Madrid, May 24.—It is officially announced that Cervera's squadron was still at Santiago de Cuba yesterday.

London, May 24.—A dispatch to the Financial News from the Massachusetts and Texas, the cruiser Brooklyn and the armed yacht Scorpion, is believed to be cruising off Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba. When the Dahab left Key West last Friday morning, Admiral Sampson was still there. It is the opinion of naval officers that he would sail for Cienfuegos by the eastern route, the two fleets thus completing a circle of Cuba.

The Iowa followed Commodore Schley on Saturday was overtaken off San Antonio on Saturday morning, the Dupont with secret instructions. The battle ship immediately increased her speed to the limit, and when last seen was guarding the entrance to the passage between the Isle of Pines and Cuba. The Dupont rushed to the westward.

Five British warships are now in the vicinity of Jamaica. A number of rumors are current as to the sighting of the phantom Spanish fleet in this vicinity, and are quite unsubstantiated.

REPORTS ARE DENIED.

Washington, May 24.—There was a lapse into sensational war rumors in Washington today, after a week of comparative quietude.

The rumors ranged all the way from the capture of the little Mangrove, with her crew of twelve men, to the reported destruction of the entire Spanish fleet by Sampson's and Schley's combined forces. They were circulated with persistence, notwithstanding their denial as soon as they were brought to the attention of any official capable of passing judgment on their accuracy. At the close of the day, however, it was again announced in the most positive manner that the navy department had no information to warrant a report of any sort of an engagement in the Windward passage. This did not specifically cover the waters of the West Indies, but in view of the fact that the department has almost pledged itself to let the public know of anything in the nature of a general engagement, possibly the bulletin announcement is sufficient to cover the case.

When Secretary Long started for home after an exceptional day, he stated to a group of newspaper men that the department had received no notification of importance. In response to an inquiry as to where the Spanish fleet was located, Long replied that his belief was that it was still at Santiago de Cuba. Concerning the reported capture of the Mangrove and the loss of other ships, the secretary dismissed these stories as purely conjectural and not supported by facts. Word had come from the commander of the Mangrove, the same time as the alleged capture, showing that the ship could not have been in the hands of the Spaniards.

The Spaniards appear to be making ready for something more than a defensive campaign at home, or at least they are trying to create that impression by other means than the news bulletins that they issue almost daily from Madrid. The navy department now has by its own reliable sources reports of the greatest activity in the Spanish navy yards and preparations for sea and a long voyage of two of their torpedo boat destroyers. It is given out that they are to join Cervera immediately as soon as his squadron enters Cadiz harbor. Possibly this state-

ment is made with the deliberate purpose of misleading America into the belief that Cervera has taken his way homeward.

Inquiries as to the whereabouts of the Oregon brought a reply this afternoon to the effect that the battle ship was safe. Nothing could be learned of her location. It is probable that the telegram said to have emanated from the vessel really were not filed at Key West but were brought to that port on some dispatch boat from the Oregon which is co-operating with our fleets.

The cutting of the cables at Santiago and at San Juan de Puerto Rico was a military move of the first importance. Blanco has yet one link left of communication with the outer world. It is said the remaining cable at Santiago will be cut soon, so that if Cervera is misguided enough to have entered Santiago harbor he will be completely out of touch with his home government and virtually unable to communicate with Blanco.

The Philippine islands expedition is now off in dead earnest. The sending of these ships will affect the Hawaiian question vitally. Like the Charleston, the transports must stop at Hawaii to replenish their coal bunkers. If the Hawaiians allow the United States to take coal without the pretext that they are using it to make our way to the nearest home port, as is required by international law in such cases, they will stand convicted of a gross breach of neutrality, that in the eyes of all nations connects them with the United States in hostility against Spain.

The taking of coal by the American ships at Hawaii to make an extensive campaign against the Spaniards, it is said here, will result in compelling the United States to either assume a protectorate over the islands or to annex them.

FROM THE DISPATCH BOAT.

On Board the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dandy, Montego Bay, Jamaica, May 24.—(Copyrighted 1898 by the Associated Press.)—The waters south of Cuba have suddenly become the scene of great activity.

Commodore Schley, who left Key West last Thursday with the Massachusetts and Texas, the cruiser Brooklyn and the armed yacht Scorpion, is believed to be cruising off Cienfuegos and Santiago de Cuba. When the Dahab left Key West last Friday morning, Admiral Sampson was still there. It is the opinion of naval officers that he would sail for Cienfuegos by the eastern route, the two fleets thus completing a circle of Cuba.

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THE OREGON ARRIVES HOME.

Atlanta, Ga., May 24.—A special to the Constitution reports the safe arrival of the battleship Oregon at Jupiter, Fla.

SMALL BUT LIVELY ENGAGEMENT.

Key West, May 24.—11:30 p. m.—The United States auxiliary tug Waumpatek brought in today a story of a sharp skirmish off Santiago de Cuba last Wednesday.

The tug with the auxiliary cruiser St. Louis went into the Santiago channel to cut the cable. While the vessels were engaged in the work they were fired on by the shore batteries. The St. Louis returned the fire and a lively hand-to-hand fight ensued for half an hour. The Waumpatek eventually succeeded in cutting the cable. None of the Spanish shots hit either boat, while neither of the boats in turn inflicted any damage on the enemy.

From Santiago the two ships proceeded to Guantanamo, the Waumpatek going on about four hundred yards from the shore to cut the cable there, the St. Louis lying out of range. The shore batteries opened fire and the St. Louis signalled to the tug to come out, which she did without having cut the cable at that point. This adventure was equally harmless.

DEWEY HEARD FROM.

Washington, May 24.—The navy department today received a cable from Dewey as follows:

"Manila, May 20, via Hong Kong, May 24.—Secretary of the Navy, Washington: The situation is unchanged. A strict blockade continues. Great scarcity of provisions in Manila. Foreign subjects fear an outbreak. The Spanish soldiers will be transferred to Cavite by the foreign men-of-war in the harbor. Aguinaldo, the rebel chief, who was brought here from Hong Kong on the McCulloch, is organizing a force of native cavalry and may render assistance that will be valuable. DEWEY."

MONTEJO WILL SUFFER.

New York, May 24.—A dispatch from Manila, via Hong Kong, asserts that Admiral Montejo, commander of the Spanish squadron destroyed by Admiral Dewey, is to be court-martialed on a charge of cowardice. This dispatch also asserts that the captain of the Spanish revenue cutter Calvo, recently captured by the United States fleet as she was entering Manila Bay, is to be shot for not returning the fire of the Americans.

PROVES TO BE A COLLIER.

St. Pierre, Martinique, May 24.—6 p. m.—(Copyrighted 1898 by the Associated Press.)—The Spanish torpedo boat destroyer Terror is being towed by the Spanish steamer Alicante. The Alicante lies at the mouth of Fort de France. It was all along supposed that she was a hospital ship, but there is no doubt that she carries a cargo of coal for the Spanish warships. Her pretensions to be a hospital ship were obviously put forward as a blind.

The United States consul has cautioned the French officials of the port not to allow the Terror to take coal in excess of the quantity to carry to the nearest Spanish port. It is supposed the Terror will leave Martinique tomorrow.

WON'T FIGHT AGAINST ODDS.

Port au Prince, May 24.—A local newspaper, the Martin, says Rear Admiral Osborne of the British navy, who left for New York Sunday on board a duties steamer, saw at Curacao the Spanish squadron of five cruisers and five torpedo boat destroyers or torpedo boats. The Spanish officers are reported to have said they would not accept battle unless with an equal number of ships and that they would avoid encountering superior numbers.

THE IRISH ARE OUR FRIENDS.

NEW YORK, May 24.—Michael Davitt, the Irish National leader in the British parliament, has sent a letter to R. A. Downing containing the following:

"I have your favor of the 21st inst. inclosing an extract from dispatches cabled from the United States asserting that Englishmen would extend a warm aid to America, but the Irishmen, as Catholics, wish success for the persecutors of the Cubans. Of course this is a palpable falsehood and is a part of the campaign waged by the London press, with the object of promoting an alliance between Great Britain and the United States at a time when no other nation in the world will ally itself with the ruler of India and Ireland. It has been manifest that we Irish are heartily with America in her disinterested mission for the liberation of Cuba from European tyranny. The one dominant aim of Great Britain is to secure the alliance of America against Russia in China and the far east. In order to achieve this end line of all kinds are being cabled to the pro-British press of New York about a possible European coalition against America in favor of Spain. There is absolutely no foundation for these statements. I crossed to Paris and satisfied myself in interviews with various continental representatives that such a coalition was a pure English fabrication. Russia will never join in any movement hostile to the United States, while the German representative announced that there is no thought in this country of being hostile to the nation in which there are 12,000,000 who are loyal American citizens by adoption. The republic of France would be shaken to its foundation if its rulers dared to join in a coalition against the sister republic beyond the Atlantic from whence came the first inspiration of French liberty."

ARMOR BIDS.

Washington, May 24.—The senate chaplain's invocation at the beginning of the session was a hymn of thanksgiving for the seventy-ninth birthday of Victoria, queen of Great Britain. The chaplain said:

" knit the hearts of the people who speak the English tongue, and we may work out a mighty problem of the highest civilization of the whole earth."

IN AID OF OREGON VOLUNTEERS.

San Francisco, May 24.—The California state auxiliary to the Red Cross society to America was formally organized today. A motion was unanimously carried allowing 25 cents per capita to the departing Oregon volunteers, the money to be put at the disposal of the medical corps and will later be refunded by the state of Oregon.

ARMS FOR THE CUBANS.

Mobile, Ala., May 24.—Fatina, the Cuban expedition steamer, finished loading this afternoon, and dropped down the ship channel bound towards Tampa, but no one knows precisely her destination. Four car loads of material were taken on the vessel, consisting of ammunition, guns and stores.

FIRST EXPEDITION READY.

San Francisco, May 24.—The first Manila expedition is now ready to sail at a moment's notice, though its departure is not expected until tomorrow. It comprises about 200 men under the immediate command of General Anderson, whose headquarters are on the Australia.

THEY LOOKED WELL.

Portland, May 24.—General C. F. Beebe today received the following dispatch from A. Chesebrough, head of Williams, Diamond & Co., San Francisco:

"Second Oregon regiment just passed our office bound for the steamer Australia. Accept compliments on its magnificent appearance."

SPANISH VESSELS TO SAIL.

New York, May 24.—A dispatch to the World from Tangier, Morocco, says:

"The following vessels of the Spanish reserve at Cadiz under Admiral Camara, are preparing to sail:

Battleship Pelayo, armored cruiser Carlos V., protected cruiser Alfonso XIII., torpedo boat destroyer Destructor, torpedo boat Prosperita, auxiliary cruisers Paria and Rapido (formerly Hamburg-American vessels), transport ships and three vessels whose names are unknown. It is rumored that instead of going to the Philippines, this squadron will probably cross the Atlantic to reinforce Cervera's squadron, which is understood to be at Santiago de Cuba.

COWBOY ROBBERS.

Albuquerque, N. M., May 24.—The south bound passenger train on the Santa Fe railway was held up last night near Belen by two cowboy robbers. They boarded the train at Belen and made the engineer run the train down the road three miles. They then marched the engineer and fireman to the express car, where they threw one of the safes out of the car, blowing it open with dynamite and taking considerable money. The amount secured is not known. The express messenger, Hiseock, was not molested nor were the passengers. The sheriffs of Valencia and Socorro counties with a posse are in pursuit.

BIDS FOR SUPPLYING ARMOR.

Washington, May 24.—Bids were opened today for supplying the armor for the battleships Illinois, Alabama and Wisconsin, now under construction at the Union Iron works, Newport News and Cramps.

This is the second time the government has endeavored to secure armor for supplying armor for these ships. An effort made a year ago was unsuccessful be-

A TREATY OF DEFENSE

Reported to Have Been Signed Between United States and Great Britain.

THE SITUATION IN SPAIN

Black Clouds Gathering Over the Peninsula--Bread Riots--Masses Want to Get Rid of Cuba.

Another Call for Volunteers Will Be Made--Increased Responsibilities

False Reports as to Strength of Insurgents--Army to Be Increased.

NEW YORK, May 24.—A dispatch to the World from Kingston, Jamaica, says:

The signing of a treaty of defense between the United States and Great Britain is announced in a dispatch received Sunday by the military authorities. A crisis in the war between America and Spain is imminent, the dispatches intimate, and Jamaica will be directly affected. All leaves of absence of military and naval officers have been canceled. Supplies of provisions to last 18 months are being stored.

The London correspondent of the World says:

A special cablegram from the Kingston correspondent of the Chronicle reads: "A military officer informs me that an official cablegram was received here Sunday announcing the formal signing of an Anglo-American defensive alliance. Certainly the war office is actively engaged in provisioning the camp in Jamaica with eighteen months' supplies, and orders have been issued to cancel leaves of officers and men."

SITUATION IN SPAIN.

New York, May 24.—A dispatch to the Herald from Madrid says:

The situation in Spain is more serious than it is generally said to be. Black clouds are gathering over the peninsula and it will be impossible to avoid a storm which will burst with terrible effect and sweep away everything in its path. That is the impression I have found after stopping here nearly a month and after numerous conversations with highly placed personages belonging to the court, the government, the parliament, and with tradesmen, middle class people and the masses. When Spaniards are spoken of, prominence is always given to the sincere patriotism which supports and animates them under the existing circumstances. I do not mean to deny the patriotism of the Spanish, but it must not be vaunted to excess, for in Madrid, for example, the pretensions of the war interest has been less than the next bull fight or the drawing of the national lottery. But the question which will evidently cause the revolutionary movement of which I have spoken is that of bread. The bread question has already led to conflicts in some towns. Spain is just now passing through

(Continued on fourth page.)

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The Royal is the highest grade baking powder known. Actual tests show it goes a third further than any other brand.