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biggest and best paper
on the Columbia River

FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

VOL. XLVIII.

ASTORIA, OREGON, FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 27, 1900.

NO. 125

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P. F. PLACIDUS, Director.

CERVERA'S FATAL BLUNDER IS NOW REALIZED

VOLUNTEERS ON THE ROLLS

Number 122,000 as Result of First Call to Arms by the President.

ANXIETY IS EXPRESSED

Department Not Sure as to Location of Spanish Fleet at Santiago.

OREGON'S GREAT VOYAGE

How She Passed the Straits of Magellan—Merritt Arrives in San Francisco—Yorktown Placed in Commission and Recruits Ordered.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The work of mustering volunteers into the service of the United States under the president's first call for troops is practically completed. ADMIRAL General O'Brien announced tonight that the number so far reported numbered 122,000 and that enough was reported for muster to swell the number in between 121,000 and 123,000.

NO NEWS FROM SCHLEY

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Secretary Long said at the close of office hours today that no word had come from any of the scouting vessels in West Indian waters concerning the Spanish flying squadron, which he concluded that Cervera was still in Santiago harbor. It is supposed that Schley is lying outside watching the entrance to prevent the egress of the Spanish vessels, but while there is evidence of a certain kind of the fact, there has been no official confirmation of it. This is a little remarkable in view of the fact that it is only a day's run for one of Schley's swift torpedo boats from Santiago to a cable port in Hayti. There is also a curious lack of information from the newspaper boats on this point. It was supposed the censors might have excluded from the dispatches of newspaper men any reference to the fleet, but this would apply, according to a statement of the naval department officials here, only to that part of the dispatches that might relate to the numbers and whereabouts of the United States forces, and the censor's rules would not exclude reference to the Spanish squadrons.

MERRITT AT SAN FRANCISCO

San Francisco, May 26.—Major General Merritt, governor general of the Philippines, arrived here today.

NEW YORK WAR SCARE

New York, May 26.—A Halifax special to the Commercial Advertiser says a fleet of French and Spanish warships are reported off Halifax harbor. Huddled orders have been issued to all the troops in preparation, and the forts at this city and harbor are being manuevered by an extra force.

THE RUMOR DENIED

Halifax, May 26.—There is no truth in the story of Spanish and French warships off this port and that the forts were being manuevered.

TRANSPORT SHIPS SCARCE

San Francisco, May 26.—The transporting of 50,000 troops to the Philippines has set the government agents to work scouring the Pacific ocean for transport vessels. So far only 2,000 troops have been sent to Admiral Dewey's assistance. There are 7,000 more in camp here and 40,000 more to come. About fifteen transports are required together with half a dozen colliers.

No Danger That the Trap Into Which he Walked Will Prove Inadequate.

CERVERA IN A TRAP THAT WILL HOLD.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Naval officers are now turning their attention to the inquiries whether it is possible for Admiral Cervera to get out of Santiago harbor. They hold that this maneuver is impossible, and being so, the career of the Spanish admiral is at an end, so far as it constitutes a menace to our ships. It is pointed out that Admiral Cervera must come out through a channel 30 yards wide, on which the American searchlights will play constantly.

In the blockade of Christian barge full of stone were sunk at the channel entrance, cutting off egress and ingress. A few old hulks would serve the same purpose in the present case. There is difficulty in getting such old craft, and the sinking of derelicts at proper points in the channel would be attended with great danger.

Taking everything into account, naval officers feel that Cervera has committed a fatal blunder in being trapped at Santiago de Cuba, and that there is no fear that the trap will prove inadequate to hold the Spaniards.

REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES IN OUR BEHALF TO AID US IN OBTAINING OUR INDEPENDENCE.

"I hereby direct there shall be issued each week a war bulletin, which shall be published at the general headquarters of the army, and shall begin with this issue to be known as Las Villas. It will be circulated under the direction and authority of the staff officers of the army and in it will be published circulars, orders and official notes of the war department as information which our army and our people may desire to know concerning our progress and our allies, the United States.

CRUSHING BLOW TO SPAIN

Will Be Administered at Once—Porto Rico to Be Conquered While Spanish Fleet is Cooped up at Santiago—Cuba Will Be Occupied With All Haste.

EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITY IN THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS IS EXHIBITED.

REPUBLIC OF CUBA AND THE ARMED INTERVENTION OF THE UNITED STATES IN OUR BEHALF TO AID US IN OBTAINING OUR INDEPENDENCE.

"I take the opportunity to remind each Cuban that he now has a country for which he must fight. We are Cuban soldiers and not insurgents, and will respect the rules of civilized warfare. I will order punished any chief officer or private who fails to respect the rights of our prisoners of war, and such prisoners will be treated with respect to their rank and according to the rule of civilized countries and the constitutional army. Our soldiers will conduct themselves in such a manner as to gain for themselves the good offices of our brethren of the United States, and for this reason it is my wish that the army of Cuba may exhibit model discipline. I desire to impress upon you that we will not continue this war which so valiantly has been kept up for the past three years, with the idea of revenge. We are fighting for liberty and independence and not for revenge, and I would call your attention to the fact that the history of the world shows that loss of blood has always been the price of liberty.

EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITY IN THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS IS EXHIBITED.

"In a recent proclamation by Blanco he made the statement that it now was the duty of all Spaniards to die for the honor in the war against the United States. Spain does not know the meaning of honor. Her definition of the word is nothing but cruelty. Spanish soldiers have never been known to die for honor, except when they are opposed as ten to one. Their idea of honor has been to assassinate defenseless women and children, whose protectors are now fighting for freedom in our army. Their idea of honor has been to rob, to plunder. They die for honor, drinking, gambling and committing crimes against humanity and against society, but now they will die before American and Cuban arms.

MESSAGE FROM THE SOLDIERS.

San Francisco, May 26.—The following message was received from the Peking by a carrier pigeon last night: "On board the Peking, May 25.—Love to parents, wives and children. Sisters, best of hellos. Remember me to all. We will ever remember the kindness, consideration and the thoughtfulness shown by all. May we be faithful to the trust reposed in us and detract nothing from the distinction won by California in this crisis. JAMES F. SMITH, Colonel First Regiment, California U. S. Volunteers."

THE MANILA MILITARY FORCE.

San Francisco, May 26.—The strength of the force now at Camp Richmond, including commanding officers and enlisted men, by commands, is as follows:
Seventh California regiment..... 1,200
Tenth Pennsylvania..... 400
First battalion Wyoming..... 328
Batteries A and B, Utah..... 250
First Colorado regiment..... 1,000
First Nebraska regiment..... 1,022
Tenth Kansas regiment..... 1,015
Thirtieth Minnesota regiment..... 1,000
First battalion Idaho..... 800
Total..... 7,010

In a week this force will probably be augmented by 4,500 additional troops. This is an approximate estimate on the strength of the cavalry from Utah, the Eighteenth and Twenty-third regiments United States infantry, and the Dakota infantry, which should arrive by Sunday. This will be the nucleus of the 40,000 troops to be mobilized here and from this will be taken an expeditionary force that will form the second column for Manila.

The telephone bell is almost as sweet in tone as the wedding bell when you feel that is some one you care very much for is going to call "hello."

FIGHT WAS HOPELESS

Spanish Officers Say They Were Forced to Battle by Public Opinion.

VIGOROUS WAR PLANS

Extraordinary Activity in the War and Navy Departments Is Exhibited.

CRUSHING BLOW TO SPAIN

Will Be Administered at Once—Porto Rico to Be Conquered While Spanish Fleet is Cooped up at Santiago—Cuba Will Be Occupied With All Haste.

EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITY IN THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS IS EXHIBITED.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Captain Concha, of the ill-fated Spanish cruiser Don Juan de Austria, destroyed at the battle of Manila, says that the Spanish commanders were quite aware that fighting was hopeless, but were forced to do it by the state of public opinion at Manila. He and other officers wished to steam out of the harbor to meet the Americans, but Admiral Montojo forbade that movement.

EXTRAORDINARY ACTIVITY IN THE WAR AND NAVY DEPARTMENTS IS EXHIBITED.

Captain Concha says the Spanish fleet was in a disgraceful condition. The engines of the Don Antonio de Ulloa were broken and the Castilla was leaking and needed engines to keep the water under; the Don Juan de Austria had only two guns that could be fired; the Marquise de Duero had only one gun, while the Isle de Cuba and Isle de Luzon had only their decks protected. He declared, however, that had the Americans not withdrawn by 11 o'clock the Spaniards intended to steam out and die to the last man.

VIGOROUS WAR PLANS

New York, May 26.—A Tribune special from Washington says: "Extraordinary activity in the war and navy departments this morning, which was not limited to the higher officials, but included every individual in both services, gave every indication of important developments in the conduct of war, while an unusual secrecy served to strengthen the impression that prompt and energetic action along the whole line in the West Indies had become a question of hours rather than days. Rumors, too definite to be ignored, but impossible of official authentication, explained the remarkable hurry and bustle as due to the president's determination to have Porto Rico occupied by American soldiers without further delay, and that the troops which had been concentrated at Gulf ports for the invasion of Cuba were to embark immediately on the twenty transports which had been secured and under command of Admiral Sampson's squadron be sent at once to seize San Juan de Porto Rico and establish a permanent colonial government in the island similar to that which General Merritt is charged with creating in the Philippines. However startling the report, its plausibility soon received corroborative strength through the concurrence of every high official to deny it. While many senators and other prominent civilians have influential relations with those carrying on the war, not only affirmed the existence of the suggested plan, but gave cogent reasons for its sudden

(Continued on third page.)

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