

The Daily Astorian

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THE DAILY ASTORIAN is the biggest and best paper on the Columbia River

FULL ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT.

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ASTORIA, OREGON, SATURDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 5, 1898.

NO. 100

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BURNED AND SANK AT SEA

Big Freighter Croatan Takes Fire Off Cape Charles and Is Lost.

FIVE MEN WERE DROWNED

Coolness of the Officers Prevented a Panic Among Crew and Nearly All Were Saved.

Twenty-Two Survivors Picked Up by Schooner and Taken to Vineyard Haven, Mass.—The Drowned.

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass., Nov. 4.—A disaster at sea, fortunately with small loss of life—five persons in all—was made known today by the landing here of 22 persons, who escaped from the burning steamer Croatan, of the Clyde line, bound from New York for Wilmington, N. C., and Georgetown, S. C. The disaster occurred on November 1, about 18 miles north of Cape Charles, and about 26 miles from New York, from which port the steamer sailed October 31, with a general cargo and eight passengers. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon the turned full of the big freighter sank beneath the waves. Of the 27 persons who were on board, 22 have survived. These passengers were landed at this port this afternoon by the schooner Alice E. Clark.

The Croatan's list of drowned is as follows: Second Assistant Engineer Jeremiah McCarty, Nova Scotia, leaving a widow in New York.

Steward James Curtis, of Jersey City; Mrs. James Curtis, wife of the steward; Frank —, an older (last name unknown); Jennie Willard, colored, Wilmington, N. C.

The story of the disaster is told by Captain Hale and the other officers of the unfortunate vessel as follows: The Croatan was about 20 hours from New York on her way to Wilmington, with a smooth sea and calm weather, when, at 3 p. m., a fireman came hurriedly on deck and reported that the ship was on fire. A general alarm was immediately given and an effort was made to contain the fire, but the fire spread with such rapidity that all efforts to reach them were unavailing because of the flames. In less than 10 minutes after the fire was reported the ship was completely enveloped in flames from stem to stern.

Shortly after the fire was discovered an explosion took place in the cargo, which blew off the after hatch. A second explosion followed a few minutes later and the ship was then a mass of flames. It was at this time that Captain Hale, seeing that to remain on the vessel meant sure death, gave orders for all hands to jump overboard and save themselves as best they could. The gallant captain was the last man to leave the ship.

There seemed to be no panic on board and men and women, after lashing on their life-preservers, calmly leaped into the water. The captain and the first officer rescued eight persons from the water in a jiffy.

The burning ship was sighted by the four-masted schooner Alice E. Clark, which lay about six miles off, and her captain sent a boat and crew, who rescued 12 persons.

SANTIAGO CUBANS STRIKE FOR HIGHER WAGES

Want an Increase of Fifty Cents, Which General Wood Refuses—transport Panama Is Safe.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Nov. 4.—The Cubans who have employed in cleaning and repairing the streets of Santiago have struck for higher wages, though they have been receiving a dollar a day, or 50 cents and two rations—higher wages than they have before been paid for similar work.

"In fact, the local employers of labor have been complaining of this high rate, alleging that it was quite impossible for them to compete with the government on such terms. The Cuban laborers, at the best, are lazy and slothful. They want an increase of 50 cents a day. General Leonard Wood absolutely refuses to accede to the demand and will adopt heroic measures if the strike is not very promptly declared off.

The trouble is that many of the strikers have rations enough on hand to last a month or more and they think they can coerce the United States authorities.

General Wood says he will arrest every laborer able to work and under a vagrancy law, which he will establish, compel him to work thirty days for rations while in jail. He dislikes the idea of importing labor, but believes that this must be the ultimate result.

General Wood visited the yellow fever hospital to make an inspection. He found one patient suffering from Bright's disease, but that there had been a case of yellow fever under care for two months. He severely censured Dr. Ducker, superintendent of the hospital, for making an appeal for American relief stores, and he will probably abolish the hospital altogether at an early date.

Collector Donaldson has returned from Gibara with \$10,000 customs receipts at that place. He reports that there is considerable smallpox in the neighborhood of Holguin, but no yellow fever. General Demetrios Castillo, who is assisting in the work of organizing the military department in the Gibara district, is busy engaging men for gendarmeries, accepting men only of good physique.

PROPOSALS REJECTED

Spaniards Refused to Give Up the Philippines to the United States.

LAME REASONS ARE GIVEN

Claimed This Country Had No Intention of Annexation When Protocol Was Signed.

MISUSE OF PUBLIC MONIES

This is Also Charged Against United States and Reparation Demanded—Are Prepared for Conflict.

PREPARED FOR THE WORST

WASHINGTON, Nov. 4.—The administration is waiting results from the peace commission with equanimity in the realization that the government is perfectly prepared for any turn the negotiations may take. The navy, especially, is in a state of readiness, should it come to a resumption of hostilities. One by one all the splendid fighting machines of the North Atlantic squadron, which had been brought north at the earliest possible moment, were docked, cleaned and thoroughly refitted at the New York and Norfolk navy yards.

Admiral Dewey has dispatched his vessels one by one to British docks at Hongkong, where they have been placed in as good condition as possible, outside of our own home ports. Secretary Long has prudently declined to part with the numerous feet of auxiliary vessels acquired by the government just prior to and during the war.

As far as the army is concerned, while the original force of nearly a quarter of a million men, called into service by the president, has been largely diminished by the mustering-out of many regiments and organizations, it is the opinion of expert military authorities that the army as a whole is now a more formidable weapon than it was at any period during the war.

In fact, all branches of the military and naval service prodded by the experience of war, and are now in better shape than ever before.

THEY ARE OPOSED TO BUYING PHILIPPINES.

Several Governors of States and Representatives Opposed to Paying One Cent for the Islands.

NEW YORK, Nov. 4.—Several governors and four members of the house of representatives, in telegrams to the world, give their views on the proposition to pay Spain \$20,000,000 for the Philippines. State executives and national lawmakers generally agree in opposing any plan calling for a money payment by victor to vanquished.

Governor Johnson, of Alabama, says: "I don't think the United States should take the Philippines as a free gift and I certainly would pay nothing for them. We want to extend our commerce, but not to go into the colonial business."

Governor Adams, of Colorado, who favors annexation, says: "It is the defeated and not the victor that pays. Why should the United States pay Spain for islands she has forfeited by every law of humanity and liberty?"

Governor Pingree, of Michigan, says: "I am opposed to this country having and looking after the Philippines. They would be an elephant on our hands. The American people in my opinion would never go there to colonies, as they can do better elsewhere."

"I think we would find it very hard to get soldiers to go into that climate to clean up the back yards and look after our interests."

Governor McLaurin, of Mississippi, says: "I think the United States, with the

INDICATIONS POINT TO REPUBLICAN VICTORIES.

The Governorship of New York Claimed by Both Parties—All Bets Taken by the Republicans.

NEW YORK

Nov. 4.—Chairman O'Dell, of the republican state committee, has given out the following statement: "The campaign which is rapidly drawing to a close from every indication points to a republican victory. The closing of a careful canvass of the up-to-date counties convinces me that a plurality large enough to more than meet and offset any possible plurality that can be obtained in Greater New York by Tammany Hall is assured."

"I find that the constant talk of Tammany Hall leaders of their certainty of carrying the state has been a mere bluff. There is no possibility of their securing in the city of New York a plurality that would insure the election of Van Wyck, and they are now seeking with fake bets to bolster up what they know to be a losing cause. Their bets the republicans are calling, and we are met with the information at their betting stand that there is no more Van Wyck money in sight. On the contrary, I am in receipt of information from hundreds of democrats within the city of New York who propose to vote for Roosevelt, and I believe that there is a surprise in store for democrats as well as for republicans, only that the surprise for the republicans will be in the nature of a pleasing one."

"I claim the state of New York without any question for Roosevelt, and I believe that there is a surprise in store for democrats as well as for republicans, only that the surprise for the republicans will be in the nature of a pleasing one."

Richard Croker, in a statement to the public, says: "I am confident that Judge Van Wyck will be elected by a handsome plurality. He will have from 75,000 to 80,000 plurality in these two boroughs, and the rest of Greater New York will increase the total to 100,000."

COPPER RIVER IS RICH.

JUNEAU, Alaska, Oct. 30, via Victoria, Nov. 4.—Captain Abercrombie, U. S. A., of the Copper river exploring expedition, has arrived here. He predicts a great future in mineral wealth and small agricultural development for the Copper river valley. He states that his party discovered anthracite and bituminous coal in quantities. When asked to what he laid the general disappointment of the season, Captain Abercrombie said: "To men who should never have left the plowhandle. Most of them were grubstaked. They weakened and remained in camp."

WETTER ACCUSED OF LOOTING PHILIPPINE TREASURY.

Men Convicted of the Offense Charge Him With Stealing Over One Million Dollars.

SAN FRANCISCO

Nov. 4.—A special to the Chronicle from Manila of September 29 says: Direct evidence connecting General Weyer of Cuban fame with the wholesale looting of the Philippine treasury has been unearthed in Bilbid prison.

Maximiliano Rosales and Julian Reyes, sent to prison as accessories for official thieves, have been liberated by order of General Otis, but delivery came too late for a third prisoner convicted of the same crime, for he died in Bilbid eight days before the American army entered the city.

When Captain Moffett, superintendent of prisons, began his investigation of the cases of the prisoners confined in Bilbid, Rosales and Reyes declared that they were unjustly suffering for the crimes of others and begged that their cases be reopened.

They averred that Weyer and his associates had looted the treasury of \$1,500,000 in Mexican silver, and that they had been accused of the crime and sent to jail. Moffett made a report of the matter to General McArthur, and an examination of the books at the treasury was ordered.

The latter showed that during the Weyer regime several immense sums of money had been withdrawn, and there was an unsatisfactory showing as to the disposition of it.

Rosales was one of the cashiers at the treasury and goes so far as to declare that Weyer himself came to the treasury to aid in the crime as he alleges. It has been decided to make a full investigation of the case.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE MAY YET BECOME INVOLVED.

British Officers at Victoria Consider the Situation Very Grave and War Resolutions Are Held Ready.

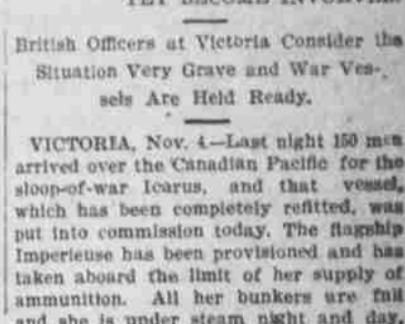
VICTORIA, Nov. 4.—Last night 150 men arrived over the Canadian Pacific for the sloop-of-war Icarus, and that vessel, which has been completely refitted, was put into commission today. The flagship Imperieuse has been provisioned and has taken aboard the limit of her supply of ammunition. All her bunkers are full and she is under steam night and day, ready to obey the first order.

The news received tonight is considered by those in command to be the most important which has yet reached here, and, although preserving the usual noncommittal attitude of British officers, those in command do not attempt any denial of the assertion that a crisis has been reached which is the gravest in the history of the empire in many years.

TUG WALLOWA ASHORE.

PORT TOWNSEND, Nov. 4.—The steamer City of Seattle, from Skagway, Alaska, reports the tug Wallowa ashore on Mary Island. She was coming south with the bark Columbia in tow and went ashore at high tide. She is reported as being in a perilous position.

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