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### Latest War News

An associated press dispatch dated off San Juan de Porto Rico, Aug. 5, via St. Thomas, says: The Americans have taken peaceful possession of the eastern portion of the island.

Small parties of marines have been landed who have lighted the lamps in the lighthouse at Cape San Juan, and other lighthouses along the coast. They met with no resistance, indeed at Cape San Juan deputations of citizens came out to meet them. The warships now in this vicinity are the Montgomery, Annapolis, the Puritan and the Amphitrite.

The two former are looking for the troop transports which left the United States and have scattered all about the island. The Annapolis rounded up the Whitney, the Florida and the Raleigh yesterday and they are at Camp San Juan.

There seems to have been a serious mistake as to the rendezvous, as no two ships got to the same place, and it will take several days to locate them and get them to Ponce, where General Miles is awaiting.

Off San Juan the cruiser New Orleans alone maintains the blockade. The city is grim and silent, but back of her hollow walls there will be plenty of determination and fight when the Americans open fire.

Captain General Macias has issued a proclamation in the course of which he says:

"Spain has not sued for peace and I can drive off the American boats now as I did Sampson's attempt before."

A daughter of the captain general is to be drilled the garrison in the forts. In all there are 9400 Spanish regulars in the city. The troops of the enemy who are retreating from Ponce and other towns on the south occupied by the Americans have not yet arrived.

The German steamer Polynesia with a cargo of rum, canned meats and tobacco, tried to run the blockade this morning but was stopped by the New Orleans.

### SPAIN APPROVES TERMS.

Madrid, Aug. 6.—The cabinet today approved the basis of the peace conditions proposed by the United States.

Duke Almodovar de Rio, the minister of foreign affairs is charged with revising the reply, which will be read and approved at the cabinet council tomorrow.

It is stated on good authority that the Spanish reply will give no occasion for further response by the United States.

Washington, Aug. 6.—Spain's answer to the American demands was not received by the French ambassador up to midnight tonight. M. Cambon and his staff, who had been waiting for it throughout the evening at that hour were convinced that it would not arrive before tomorrow and the ambassador retired and the members of his staff went to their homes.

London, Aug. 7.—The Madrid correspondent of the Sunday Times says:

"Spain's answer will accept all the American terms except that regarding the Cuban debt. The government will fight this point on the ground that in all other sessions of territory by one nation to another, the ceded territory has carried with it its own debt or the proportion belonging to the nation by which it is ceded."

President McKinley will receive the answer on Monday or at the latest on Tuesday.

Senor Sagasta in conference with politicians and generals follows the example of Senor Castelar in 1873. His objects are two fold—to divide the responsibility for the decision and to avoid the convocation of the cortes.

"The news from Porto Rico is received with great disappointment. The Spaniards are disgusted to see the natives have given the Americans and the news that the volunteers have thrown down their arms.

The general opinion is that it is not worth while to risk lives and spend millions for the sake of territories that are worse than they are to the mother country.

It is assumed that there will be no international trouble over the evacuation of the West Indies.

"The war has cost \$350,000,000."

### FILE CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES.

Washington, Aug. 6.—The announcement that the United States government will assume liability for the claims of the insurgents against the Spanish government, owing to the injuries and damages sustained in the Cuban insurrection has caused the filing of a large number of claims with the state department. Very many of these are not based upon events occurring during the last rebellion but date back for many years and relate to excess customs collections, damages sustained through municipal maladministration, alleged illegal confinement and such things.

On the other hand there are now Spanish claims to the amount of \$8,000,000 against the United States, that, in the event of a joint claims committee being authorized would be proper offsets to many Americans here.

A large number of these claims are made by Spanish citizens on account of the property destroyed or appropriated by the confederate troops during the civil war, thus having the same basis as a number of American citizens against the Spanish government for property seized or destroyed by insurgents in Cuba. Another class of these claims is of recent date, flowing from the abortive efforts of the commissioners and special courts created by congress to settle the "Florida claims."

It is believed to be probable however that in the adjustment of peace terms our government will ignore all claims save those proffered by American citizens for losses sustained in Cuba, allowing the others to be arranged for later on by a joint committee.

### TO CARRY TROOPS FROM SANTIAGO.

Playa del Este, Aug. 6.—The auxiliary cruiser St. Louis has arrived here from Porto Rico under orders to assist in taking the United States troops home from Santiago. Captain Goodrich thinks his ship is too long to enter the harbor and he will remain here until the matter is settled.

The transport San Juan arrived from Santiago with troops and provisions and proceeded for Caimanera. The Atimesa has left for Key West.

The fleet still remains here waiting orders from Washington. Admiral Sampson expects peace negotiations will come to a quick conclusion. He is anxious to take aggressive action on the south coast without delay, or in the event of peace being concluded, to immediately relieve the suffering imposed by the rigor of the blockade.

Throughout the campaign Admiral Sampson's keen appreciation of the sufferings of the Cubans and his endeavors to afford them relief have been a marked feature.

The newspapers containing Admiral Sampson's report of the battle of July 31 arrived last night. They were eagerly read throughout the fleet and the report created intense satisfaction. The universal confidence and devotion to the admiral by the men under his command rendered this expression of feeling a foregone conclusion.

It does seem as though Spain might have been compelled to repay at least a portion of the large sum of money the war has cost us. Spain is no worse off than China was when Japan made her come down with the cash.

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