

AFFAIRS IN PORTO RICO

Miles' Army Marching on San Juan.

THE CITY OF PONCE IS OURS

Sharp Engagement With Spanish Troops Before Yancó—Enemy Was Repulsed With Loss—General Miles Issues a Proclamation to the People.

Port of Ponce, Porto Rico, via the Island of St. Thomas, Aug. 1.—The port of Ponce surrendered to Commander C. H. Davis, of the auxiliary gunboat Dixie. There was no resistance, and the Americans were welcomed with enthusiasm.

Major-General Miles arrived here this morning at daylight, with General Ernst's brigade and General Wilson's divisions on board transports. General Ernst's brigade immediately started for the town of Ponce, three miles inland, which capitulated this afternoon.

The American troops are pushing toward the mountains, and will join General Henry, with his brigade, at Yancó, which has been captured by our troops. A fight before the latter place last Tuesday was won by the American companies of the Sixth Massachusetts and Sixth Illinois, but the enemy was repulsed and driven back a mile to the ridge where the Spanish cavalry charged, and was routed by our infantry. General Garretson led the fight with the men from Illinois and Massachusetts, and the enemy retreated to Yancó, leaving four dead and several wounded. None of our men were killed, and only four were slightly wounded.

The Porto Ricans are glad the American troops have landed, and say they are all Americans and will join our army. The roads are good for military purposes. Our troops are in good health, and General Miles says the campaign will be short and vigorous.

General Miles has issued the following proclamation:

"In the prosecution of the war against the kingdom of Spain by the people of the United States in the cause of liberty, justice and humanity, its military forces have come to occupy the island of Porto Rico. They come bearing the banners of freedom, inspired by a noble purpose, to seek the enemies of our government and of yours, and to destroy or capture all its armed resistance. They bring you the fostering arms of a free people, whose greatest power is justice and humanity to all living within their fold. Hence they release you from your former political relations, and it is hoped this will be followed by your cheerful acceptance."

"The chief object of the American military forces will be to overthrow the authority of Spain and give the people of your beautiful land the largest measure of liberty consistent with this military occupation. They have not come to make war on the people of the country, who for centuries have been oppressed, but, on the contrary, they come to protect not only yourselves, but your property, promote your prosperity and bestow the immunities and blessings of our enlightened and liberal institutions and government. It is not the purpose to interfere with the existing laws and customs which are wholesome and beneficial to the people, so long as they conform to the rules of the military administration, order and justice. This is not a war of devastation and desolation, but one to give all within the control of the military and naval forces the advantages and blessings of enlightened civilization."

AFFAIRS AT UNALASKA.

Rich Sulphur Mine Said to Have Been Discovered.

Seattle, Aug. 1.—Elmer Miller, who wintered at Unalaska, says that since the Russians first settled Alaska there were never so many white people on the Aleutian islands as there were last year, and eight different companies were at work building 34 Yukon river boats, and from about a score of white Unalaska increased its population to nearly 700. Of the 34 boats built, many met with disaster when they were towed into Behring sea, the shores of which are strewn with wreckage of all kinds of river craft.

Judges Brunket and Reed, of Minneapolis, have been on the island all winter examining a sulphur mine adjoining the volcano of Makushin, about 20 miles west of Unalaska. It is said that this mine will prove more valuable than any gold mine in the Klondike, as sulphur is at present greatly in demand. Rumor has it that the mine will prove to be the richest in the world.

Killed by a Train.

Clay Center, Kan., Aug. 1.—Levi Catlin, of Rockford, Ill., was killed by a Union Pacific passenger train. Mr. Catlin was rated as worth three-quarters of a million dollars, and had large interests in Clay county.

Seattle, Aug. 1.—Maurice B. Atkinson, of New York, who started to the Klondike by way of the Ashcroft trail, has returned here, with the story that 500 prospectors are stranded at a point about 700 miles from Ashcroft. Beyond one or two parties, who took in large outfitts, the men are living on the most stinted rations. Mr. Atkinson says that the attention of the Canadian government will be called to the desperate situation in which the gold-seekers are in.

FLEET AT WORK.

Neuvitas Bombed by the American Warships.

Key West, Aug. 2.—Reports have reached here that Neuvitas, on the northern coast of the province of Puerto Principe, Cuba, has been bombarded by the ships of the blockading squadron, evacuated by the Spanish and subsequently burned. No details are known, and the only information of the affair was that given to Captain Maynard, of the gunboat Nashville, by Lieutenant-Colonel Rojas, of the insurgent forces at Gibara, last Tuesday. Colonel Rojas himself has the news at second hand.

The only American ships known to have been in the vicinity of Neuvitas lately are the Prairie and Badger. The latter captured three Spanish ships coming out of the Neuvitas harbor, and took them to Dry Tortugas. All were flying Red Cross flags, but when boarded were found to contain a number of Spanish soldiers, only three of whom were sick. The Badger is expected here shortly.

The Nashville reported at Gibara on Tuesday, when she captured the schooners Gibara and Expresso. On entering the harbor, she was met by the ex-

United States consular agent and president of the railroad line to Holguin. He told the Americans of the evacuation of Gibara two days before by General Leguizamón and his 1,800 Spanish troops, who feared a concerted attack by Americans and Cubans. They fled to Holguin by rail, and afterward stowed up the tracks. General Leguizamón left in the Gibara hospital 585 sick and wounded Spanish soldiers with a request to Admiral Sampson to see that they were properly cared for.

The next day the Cuban forces, consisting of 500 cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Rojas, and 200 infantry, made a triumphant entry into the town. They were received with acclamations by the Cubans, and the town held festival that day and night. The insurgents took formal possession, establishing police system and sent out scouting parties, and when the Nashville arrived, the best of order was being maintained. The invaders had, however, neglected the schooners in the harbor, and the American ships took possession of them.

When Ensign Snow left with a prize crew to bring the Gibara here, it had been determined to raise the American flag over the town.

SORROW IN GERMANY.

All Interest Centers in the Death of Prince Bismarck.

Berlin, Aug. 2.—The news of Prince Bismarck's death, which became generally known only through special editions of the papers, produced profound sorrow, as so sudden a realization of the fears of his demise was not expected. Several papers this morning published special articles with mourning borders, expressing, in feeling terms, the national sorrow, and dwelling on the brilliant and immortal services of the prince to the fatherland, his heroic greatness and his truly German character. Sorrows sympathy over Prince Bismarck's death is manifested in many ways. The news is constantly discussed in public places, and a feeling of sadness prevails among all classes of people. Particulars of the last moments of the prince and other circumstances attending his death are eagerly sought. Many private houses show flags at half mast. Secretary of State Von Buelow will return from Siemirgen, Austria, immediately.

The message to Senator Davis says: "A castiron agreement, binding Spain to form a government satisfactory to the inhabitants, is preposterous. To retain her sovereignty means deception, oppression and bigotry. We place our rights in your hands, and pray you to induce the president and senate not to abandon in the hour of peace a people who, trusting in American honor, fought for their common interests."

FATAL SAN FRANCISCO FIRE.

Five Persons Were Killed and Many Injured.

San Francisco, Aug. 1.—A fire, which broke out shortly after midnight in a three story frame building at 118 Oregon street, caused the loss of five lives and badly burned five persons, one of whom is not expected to survive. The dead are:

Kate Connelly, William White, Frank Kelly, George Hansen, C. A. Holmes.

The injured are: Mrs. Manuel Silva, badly burned and probably fatally injured internally; John King, burned on side and right arm; Chris Christianen, burned on arms, face and head; Pat Donohue, burned on arms, face, chest and back; Edward M. Kenny, burned on arms, back, neck and thigh.

The building was a cheap lodging-house, and most of the inmates were longshoremen and people who work along the water front. Being of wood, the structure burned like tinder, and the victims were nearly all suffocated. The property loss is not over \$2,000.

Bound for Manila.

San Francisco, Aug. 1.—The third battalion, First South Dakota volunteers, and the Minnesota and Colorado recruits sailed today to join their comrades in the Philippines. The St. Paul will carry the troops to their destination. A fleet of tugs, steamers and launches gathered about the St. Paul and acted as an escort on shore the wharves were lined with people who waved farewell to the departing troops. The rigging of the transport was filled with the soldiers, and two men, anxious to secure a lofty perch, climbed up to the mastsheads, from which points they waved flags. The soldiers were saluted by steam whistles and bells and the cheers of the soldiers filled the air as they passed down the bay.

Papers Forced to Advance Prices.

Chicago, Aug. 2.—The French steamer Manovia was brought in as a prize today. She was captured by the Dixie off the south coast of Porto Rico on the 24th ult. She is now at quarantine here.

Reno, Nev., Aug. 2.—The town of Beckwith, Cal., having a population of about 500, on the Sierra Valley railroad, 35 miles north of here, was almost wiped off the map yesterday afternoon by fire. Loss, \$40,000.

Washington, Aug. 1.—Great Britain has notified the state department that she has selected her majesty's ships Alibon and Icarus for patrol service in Behring sea during the present season.

Thousands Will Perish.

Fresno, Cal., July 30.—The dry season has caused great loss to stockmen on the Sierra foothills. It is estimated that 175,000 sheep were driven into the forest reservations after the withdrawal of the United States cavalry, some time ago. Recently, a force of deputy marshals forced the stockowners to remove their cattle and sheep from the reserve land. Some of the herders assert that as there is no grass and little water to be found elsewhere, at least 100,000 sheep must perish.

Fatal Powder Mill Explosion.

Elmira, N. Y., July 28.—The powder mill of E. J. Johnson, at Troy, Penn., was blown up today, and the owner, who was also the paying teller in the Pomeroy & Mitchell bank, was killed.

Down From St. Michaels.

San Francisco, July 30.—The steamer Portland arrived this evening from St. Michaels, bringing seven Klondike miners and about \$250,000 in gold dust and bullion.

Wool—Valley, 10@12c per pound;

Eastern Oregon, 8@12c; mohair, 25c per pound.

Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 8@12c; dressed mutton, 7c; spring lambs, 9c per lb.

Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, 6@7c; light and feeders, \$3.00@4.00; dressed, 5.50@6.50 per 100 pounds.

Beef—Gross, top steers, 8.50@9.50c; cows, \$2.50@3.00; dressed beef, 5@6@6c per pound.

Veal—Large, 5@6c; small, 7@8c per pound.

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