The Wichita Daily Eagle.

VOLUME XXIX. WICHITA, KANSAS: SATURDAY MORNING, MAY 21, 1898. NUMBER 8

THIS SHOWS HOW BIG A LIAR SPAIN IS

Madrid, May 20—The government, it is said, has received a dispatch from Havana "announcing that the rebels have pronounced in favor of Spain and are now making common cause with the Spaniards to defeat the Americans."

HELP

From France Is Sought and Expected by Spain.

SAGASTA'S MAN CASTILLO

Is "Detained" at Paris by Important Negotiations.

MADRID CLAIMS TO KNOW

More About Emperor William's Views on the Anglo-American Alliance Than Anybody Else.

Madrid, May 20.—In presenting the new ministers to the chamber today, Senor Sagasta explained that the appointment of a minister of foreign affairs had been postponed because Senor Y Castillo had not accepted the portfolio, "being detained in Paris by very important negotiations which may lead to fresh developments in the present grave situation."

London, May 20.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times says: "A newspaper which is occasionally inspired makes the oracular announcement that Senor Leon Y Castillo, the Spanish ambassador to France, is engaged in effecting approachment with the French government for reasons which must not be made public."

London, May 20.—The Madrid correspondent of the Weekly Mail says:

"Lieutenant General Correa, minister of war, assures me that nothing definite has been decided upon with respect to the expedition to the Philippines. The government will be guided by circumstances.

"In official circles here it is believed that Emperor William will not for the moment answer Mr. Joseph Chamberlain's utterances about an Anglo-American alliance, but will wait for a better opportunity for doing so. I am unable to state precisely the reasons why this purpose of the kaiser should be known here earlier than in any other European capital, but it is so regarded and ministers are most positive about it.

"Rumors regarding a new big loan have been in circulation for some time. I know from a good source that Senor Pugicerver, minister of finance, will wait until the cortes is closed before taking action in that direction. He will negotiate the loan in gold for £12,000,000 ($60,000,000) sterling."

RUSSIA MIGHT HELP SPAIN

By Leasing Some of the Philippines and Holding on to Them.

St. Petersburg, May 20.—The public and the press here are evinding great interest in the future of the Philippine Islands. Much hostility is manifested towards any scheme by which the United States, Great Britain or Germany, individually or jointly, are to have possession of the islands, and some of the newspapers urge the Russian government to endeavor to obtain from Spain a lease of some of the Philippine islands, in order that they may be seized as a Russian base in the Pacific.

NAVAL STRATEGY BOARD

Loses a Valued Member in the Person of Captain Barker.

Washington, May 20.—The naval strategy board, rechristened of late the war board, is to lose one of its most active and valuable members, in the person of Captain Barker. He leaves Washington tomorrow for Hampton Roads, to take command of the fine protected cruiser Newark, which has just been extensively repaired at the Norfolk navy yards. It is expected that the Newark will join Sampson's squadron in the West Indies as soon as she can get there. It has not been determined who will succeed Captain Parker as a member of the board, a place requiring the very highest professional qualifications and involving a knowledge of strategy as taught scientifically which is not the possession of all naval officers. It may be that the vacancy will not be filled at present, though there has been favorable mention of the name of Admiral Ramsey, retired, in that connection.

Another loss will occur to the department tomorrow when Lieutenant Gibbon leaves to serve as one of Captain Barker's officers on the Newark. This young officer has displayed the greatest energy in securing for the services of the navy the various naval militia organizations of the states and as an incident to that work he was obliged to put forth his best efforts to secure the formation of new organizations where none existed and additional battalions in the states that already possessed a naval militia. The great value of this work is shown by the fact that many of the vessels of the auxiliary navy and most of the old monitors that have been commissioned for coast defense purposes have been manned almost altogether by the naval militiemen.

WORLD'S TRADE WITH MANILA

More Than Two Thirds of it is of the United States.

Washington, May 20.—The department published in the shape of consular reports today some statistics from United States Consul Williams at Manila. They show that last year, out of 322 vessels arriving and departing at the Philippines, 232 were American, 119 from Great Britain, 29 from Germany and 27 from Spain. The arrivals were in about the same proportion. Mr. Williams' last report is dated April 2, showing a most flourishing condition of the Manila customs, the receipts for February last exceeding by $67,940 the receipts for the corresponding month of 1897.

MERRITT IN WASHINGTON

War Department is Disposed to Send Him Off Well Fixed.

Washington, May 20.—Preparations go steadily on for the Philippines military expedition. General Merritt, who will command, stopped in Washington this morning on his way westward from New York, and spent most of the day in consultation with the officials of the department arranging the details of the expedition.

Another transport was secured today and the department is showing a disposition to treat General Merritt with the utmost liberality in the equipment of his force. It is expected that the advance guard of one vessel, under the command of General Otis, will sail out of the Golden Gate tomorrow, bound for the Philippines.

San Francisco, May 20.—Arrangements have been made for the chartering of the steam ship Zealandia, due here from Honolulu on the 24th of this month, and negotiations for the chartering of the steamer China, due here from the Orient on the 28th, are nearing consummation. This makes five steamers chartered by the government to be used as transports to the Philippines, as follows: City of Peking, City of Sydney, Australia, Zealandia and China. The first named will leave this city within a few days of each other, the City of Peking probably sailing tomorrow. The China and Zealandia cannot go before the 15th of next month, and will probably be escorted to their destination by the Philadelphia, which is almost ready to go into commission.

PRIZE COURT AT WORK

Argonauta and Four Other Vessels Adjudged Lawful Prize.

Key West, Fla., May 20.—The discovery of war supplies on board the Argonauta will not change the status of her case before the prize court; it had already decided today before learning of the finding, that the steamer was legitimately a prize of war, no claims having been filed by the owners of the ship or cargo.

A like decision was rendered in the case of the steamer Ambrosio Bolivar and the schooners Candidia, Mathilde and Sophia. The only formality remaning to make these vessels the absolute property of the United States is the confirmation of the federal court authorities of the finding of the prize commission.

The cases of the Buena Ventura, the first capture of the war, and the Pedro, Catalina, Miguel Jover, Panama and Guido, all large and valuable steamers, will have to be tried in regular form by the United States courts, claims having been filed by the owners of the ships and cargoes.

The barkentine Carlos Roman, 75 tons, captured by the New York off Havana on Tuesday, was brought in here today by a petty officer and a prize crew. She had on board a cargo of garlic and jerked beef.

ENGLAND IN THE PACIFIC

Is Believed to Be Preparing a World-Startling Move.

Van Couver, B. C., May 20.—The British fleet in the Pacific is to be strengthened to a considerable extent during the next few months. The Temairie, the first battleship to be permanently stationed here, is being fitted out at Portsmouth and will sail shortly for Esquimault, and the big cruiser Warspite is also being sent to join the Pacific squadron. The fleet is to be strengthened by replacing some of the smaller cruisers with larger ones, the second-class cruiser Arethusa being now on her way here to relieve the third-class cruiser Icarus. In the south the battleship Iron Duke is to be stationed at Coquimbo. Among naval men the opinion is rife that England is about to make a move in the Pacific that will startle the world, or if not this, she is preparing to meet a contemplated move of one of the other big powers.

YANG TSE KIANG REBELLION

Formidable Secret Society is Likely to Make Trouble.

Tacoma, Wash., May 20.—Late Oriental papers state that there are many indications of the rebellion in the Yang Tse Kiang valley, owing to the unsettled industrial conditions. The Kolao Hui, a formidable anti-foreign secret society, continues to increase its numbers. The real ruler of the Yang Tse valley is stated to be Cheng Chih Tung, viceroy of Hunan and Hupeh, who is disgusted with the weakness of the Peking government and is winking at the organiation and arming the Kolao Hui society. Many missionaries in that section are thought to be in danger of death.

MONUMENT TO THE SIGNERS

Of the Mecklenburg Declaration Unveiled at Charlotte, N. C.

Charlotte, N. C., May 20.—A magnificent monument to the signers of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence was unveiled here this morning in the presence of a tremendous crowd. Among the prominent people present were former Vice-President Adai E. Stevenson, a descendent of one of the signers of the declaration, Governor Atkinson, of Georgia; Governor Ellerbee, of South Carolina; Governor Russell, of North Carolina; Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, and Mrs. D. H. Hill. Hon. A. E. Stevenson was the orator of the day.

Vancouver, B. C., May 20.—G. M. Schilling, the one-armed athlete, who left New York on August 3 on a walk around the world, has arrived here.

WHERE CERVERA IS

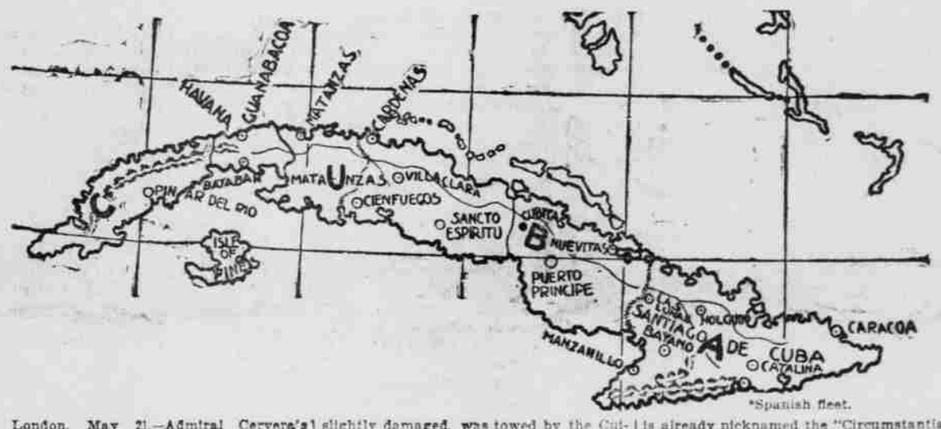
This Question is Generally Answered in Acquiescence With Madrid Reports:

THAT HE IS AT SANTIAGO DE CUBA

What it Means is Another Question, Spain Declaring His Arrival There Equal to a Victory Over the American Fleets.

SOME THINK HE HAS RUN INTO A TRAP

Others That the Cadiz Fleet, Contrary to Spanish Reports, May Be Half-Way Across the Atlantic Already, and That He Knows Exactly What He Is About--In One Quarter He Is Rated as a Second Nelson--No News of Sampson or Schley,



*Spanish fleet.

London, May 21.—Admiral Cervera's maneuver excites the keenest speculation here. In some quarters the whole story is regarded as a ruse daigned to hurry up the Spanish government, and the spreading of it broadcast is supposed to hide sinister motives. The bulk of the opinion, however, regards the news as authentic, and is inclined to the belief that Admiral Cervera well knows reinforcement is at hand and that otherwise he would not have risked being bottled up at Santiago.

The Daily News directs attention to the great secrecy preserved about what is happening at the Canaries, where the cables have been seized and censorship is severe. It says:

"The question now arises whether the reserve squadron from Cadiz is already half way across the Atlantic. One thing seems clear. The Spanish strategists have a pre-arranged plan of operations, while the Americans have been forced by circumstances into a defensive attitude. However, if Cervera is at Santiago de Cuba, it ought not to be difficult for Admiral Sampson to find him. Thus it is possible there may be a big fight within a few days."

MAY BE IN A TRAP, THOUGH.

The Daily Chronicle, o nthe other hand, thinks Admiral Cervera has walked into a trap from which he cannot escape, "thanks partly to the imbecility of the Spanish government in publishing his dispatch, which was doubtless sdone to avert domestic evils."

The Daily Chronicle concludes:

"As to hinted negotiations by Spain with the powers, the best answer to them would be an American victory, which we hope to record Monday or Tuesday."

The Times says editorially:

"Whether publicity will assist the success of Admiral Cervera's operations is questionable, but it has undoubtedly helped the new ministers to make a favorable debute in the cortes. Certainly the situation has increased in interest."

WITH A SPANISH COLORING.

The Madrid correspondent of the Daily News says:

"Admiral Cervera's dispatch from Santiago de Cuba to the minister of marine contained further details for the information of the government alone. It is pointed out here that the American plan was to gain command of the sea as a condition to futur movements. Admiral Cervera's brilliant move—reminding one of Lord Nelson's race from the West Indies to Trafalgar and his escape from the French—deprives America of the command of the sea and demonstrates to the world that the blockade of Cuba is merely nominal.

"Admiral Cervera has given the slip to two fleets that have been scouring the ocean for a fortnight in an endeavor to catch him. All the American scheme depended thereon. Admiral Cervera, with four cruisers and a few destroyers, alone in the Atlantic, ignoring events in Cuba, and in Porto Rico, and the position of the American squadron, has out-maneuvered, disorganized and dispersed the latter, making the Americans believe they were threatened on every side.

"The torpedo boats Azor, Rayo and Ariete steamed from the Cape Verde islands to the Canaries with the utmost precautions, hugging the coat by day and covering their lights by night. The Ariete slightly damaged, was towed by the Cuidad de Cadiz, and the transports carried the smaller boats of the Vizcaya, the Almirante Oquendo and the Cristobal Colon and the Infanta Maria Teresa, probably in order that these vessels might be kept cleared in view of a possible battle.

A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Las Palmas, Canary Islands, says:

"The Spanish torpedo boats Azor, Ariete and Rayo today, with the armored transports San Francisco and Cuidad de Cadiz, arrived here May 7 from the Cape Verde Islands. It is reported that the armament of the latter two has been increased recently. The Rayo is said to be badly in need of repairs."

St. Johns, N. F., May 20.—The government is taking steps to prevent the Spanish Cadiz squadron from getting coal in Newfoundland waters, and will dispatch the revenue cruiser Fimo to patrol the south coast and report the presence of strange shipping. The British war ships are also preparing to visit there.

SPAIN THANKS CERVERA

For Vindicating the Spanish Character For Sublime Sneaking.

Madrid, May 20.—In the senate today Count Penaramiero proposed the senate's congratulation to Admiral Cervera on his arriving safely at Santiago de Cuba and "cleverly dodging the American squadrons."

Captain Aunon, the minister of marine, responded in the name of the navy, highly extolling Admiral Cervera. In so doing he said the arrival of the Spanish squadron in Cuban waters would prove to the world that Spain will never abandon Cuba while the mother country retains her vitality."

The congratulations were voted unanimously.

A Spanish official version of the engagement said to have taken place off Santiago de Cuba yesterday, previous to the arrival of the Spanish fleet, says the American warships were repulsed and adds that one of them was damaged.

POLO'S COALING STATION

Story Dismissed By Washington Officials as Pure Invention.

Washington, May 20.—Officials here dismiss as pure invention the story coming from Montreal that Former Minister Polo has succeeded in securing for Spain a coaling station on one of the French islands of Pierre and Miquelon, off the New Foundland coast. At the French embassy the report is treated with indignant contempt, as the French decree of neutrality is binding on the French governor of these islands and effectually prevents the granting of such exceptional privileges as coaling stations. It is not generally known that France possesses these small islands in the North Atlantic. When the French gave up Canada and New Foundland to the British, it was provided in the treaty of Utrecht that France should retain the two islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, which have since been utilized as coaling stations for French steamers.

MUST FIGHT FOREVER

Sagasta Lays Down Hard War Conditions For Himself.

Madrid, May 20.—The ministers, in full uniform, appeared in the senate today.

Owing to circumstances, the new cabinet is already nicknamed the "Circumstantial cabinet." The premier, Senor Sagasta, explained the ministerial crisis and asserted that the new ministry would continue the policy of the former ministry. He related how Spain did everything to avoid war until America, violating all recognized diplomacy, attacked Spain with an injustice unprecedented in the annals of civilized history, and compelled Spain to respond with war to war, which Spain would continue until an honorable peace is obtained.

"This," the premier continued, "is a strong policy, and the new government will also energetically conduct negotiations with European and other states."

In the chamber Senor Sagasta repeated his senate speech.

Senor Silvela, leader of the dissident Conservatives, replied that his section of the Conservative party approved the policy announced by Senor Sagasta and would support the new cabinet.

Senor Romero y Robledo, leader of the Weylerite faction, presented an interpellation, maintaining that the old government was in a crisis from the very declaration of war, and that if the present were a continuance of the policy of the old cabinet then the present cabinet was in a crisis.

Senor Romero y Robledo then pressed Senor Gamazo, minister of public instruction, public works, agriculture and commerce, to disclose his individual opinion and to say how far he indorsed the ministerial policy of the reconstructed cabinet, insisting that if the present was a continuation of the old policy, then Senor Gamazo, unless he had thrown over his former theories, ought to be in the opposition, not in office.

Senor Gamazo replied that, without abandoning his present ideas, he had accepted office patriotically and would carry out the government program irrespective of his own personal theories.

Senor Sagasta explained that the cabinet changes were due to the fact that several ministers were "ill and extremely fatigued after the recent anxieties."

He said the Spanish cabinet found itself confronted with war or dishonor and accepted the former, adding solemnly:

"The Spanish government will never accept peace if the territorial integrity of Spain is not maintained, and otherwise Spain is determined to fight a tout outrance." (Loud cheers).

Later Senor Sagasta promised a day to debate the "red book." Altogether, however, the debate was disappointing to the chamber and to the crowded public galleries, which had expected sensational scenes.

Senor Salmeron made a speech vigorously attacking the cabinet.

ENTITLED TO SOME CREDIT

Washington Thinks Maybe Cervera is at Santiago. After All.

Washington, May 20.—All of the news that was given out today at the navy department was comprised in the one short bulletin posted at the close of the day, stating that the department had information, believed to be authentic, that Admiral Cervera, with his Spanish flying squadron, was at Santiago de Cuba.

This went to confirm the newspaper reports and also the Madrid cablegram published this morning, the latter a rather unusual circumstance, for the Spanish bulletins have been notably deceptive ever since the flying squadron left Cadiz.

Accepting this statement as correct, it indicated that there was little probability of a hostile meeting between Sampson or Schley and Cervera immediately.

Looking over the charts of Santiago harbor, the war department soon discovered that the place would be a veritable rat trap for the Spaniards, with its narrow entrance, in which a single American monitor could blow up the whole Spanish fleet.

M'COY GETS THE DECISION

Over Gus Ruhlin in the Twentieth Round, at Syracuse.

Syracuse, N. Y., May 20.—The fight here tonight between Kid McCoy and Gus Ruhlin, the latter of Cleveland, resulted in a victory for McCoy after twenty rounds. Three thousand persons were in the Alhambra, where the fight was held. There was little betting on the result, and the showing made by Ruhlin was a surprise. He stood a lot of punishment and was always ready to come back for more. He was apparently strong at the finish.

McCoy says he will now meet Goddard and then Choynski. There was a great difference in the weight of the men, McCoy, according to his statement, weighing 157 pounds, and Ruhlin, according to Billy Madden, his manager, tipping the scales at 189 pounds. Sixty per cent of the gate receipts is to be divided between the two men, McCoy taking 75 per cent and Ruhlin 25 per cent in lieu of a $2,500 purse.

George Siler of Chicago acted as referee. When he rendered his decision Jim Corbett leaped into the ring and asked McCoy to fight him, but the latter declined to consider the matter and refused to make any arrangement.

As a curtain-raiser Kid Broad and Jack Malton fought twelve rounds at catch weights. Broad got the decision.

Organizing Independent Volunteers

Washington, May 20.—A beginning was made today towards the organization of the independent volunteer forces under authority conferred upon the president by special resolution. The National Guard will have no part in these organizations, which will be made up of engineers, immunes and electricians.

The staff assignments are coming out rapidly in the general orders from the department, the orders being made generally upon the request of the major generals and the brigadier generals yet to be provided for in this matter.

The complaint of the shoeless among the volunteers just brought into the army will soon be silenced, as the war department has just placed orders for 200,000 pairs of soldiers' shoes.

Italian Warships Expected.

(Copyrighted 1898 by the Associated Press)

St. Thomas, Danish West Indies, May 20.—The Dutch cruiser Ariadnat has arrived here from the Azores islands. It is said that five Italian warships will rendezvous here at the end of the present month.

Not in League With Lynchers.

Frankfort, Ky., May 20.—Governor Bradley today received an application from Graves county authorities for a requisition on the governor of Illinois for Booch Blanks, a negro under arrest in Illinois and under indictment in Graves county for rape. He refused the requisition because of the wholesale slaughter of negroes by mobs in Graves county and the failure to punish their murderers.

Wingshot Championship to Settle.

Kansas City, Mo., May 20.—The Kansas City Star cup, representing the wingshot championship of America, was won in the Missouri shooting tournament today by Charles Budd of Des Moines, Iowa. After the 63 men entering the event had shot at 25 birds there remained but five who had clean scores. These were Sim Glover, Rochester, N. Y.; T. J. Graham, Rosedale, Mich.; Charles Budd, Des Moines, Iowa, and C. S. Goettleb and J. B. Porter, Kansas City. Mr. Graham was erroneously reported yesterday as having missed one of the first 25 birds.

When the five crack stepped up for the shoot-off a heavy wind was blowing. Porter missed his third bird, Goettleb his first, Graham his twelfth and Glover his fourteenth. Budd killed fifteen straight, winning the cup.

His possession of the cup, however, may yet be temporarily, for, under the conditions of the donor, the trophy is to be put up again tomorrow, when the five marksmen who have at different times held the cup are to compete for its permanent ownership.

Mr. Budd will have as opponents J. A. R. Elliott, J. E. Riley, Fred Gilbert and Sim Glover.

BULLETIN OF

The Wichita Daily Eagle.

Wichita, Saturday, May 21, 1898

Weather For Wichita Today:
Fair; cooler; northerly winds

Sun--Rises, 4:39; Sets 7:13
Moon--Sets.

IMPORTANT NEWS OF TODAY

Pages

1. **Spain Seeks a French Alliance**
   Trying to Solve Cervera
   How the Kansas Troops Fare
2. **War Bill in the Senate**
   Parliament's Tribute to Gladstone
   Evangelina Cisneros to Wed
3. **Wichita Livestock Market**
   Stock Market Watches the War
   Business Increases, Despite War
5. **Want Regulation of Town Herd**
   Barney O'Conner Arrested
6. **Spain Boasts of Her Cervera**
   Gomez Book of Havana
8. **Cervera's One Big Advantage**

GLAD

To See the Jayhawker Boys Were the Frisco Folks.

TWO KANSAS REGIMENTS

Enthusiastically Cheered in the Sunset City.

KANSANS IN THE SOUTH

Twenty-First Regiment is in the Third Division of the First Corps --Details of Organization.

San Francisco, May 20.—The Third battalion of Nebraska volunteers arrived here late this afternoon and marched to their camping grounds.

The First and Second Kansas volunteers marched up from the ferry about 7 o'clock and received an enthusiastic greeting.

The First Minnesota, which arrived at the Oakland Mole an hour later, remained there tonight. The Second Minnesota battalion is due to arrive. All the troops who appeared on the scene today are in the best of health and spirits.

San Francisco, May 20.—The Nebraska volunteers, who were delayed at Reno by the railroad accident at Roca yesterday, arrived here this afternoon. Troops from many sections of the country are due to arrive here tonight.

General Otis, who is in command of the First Manila expedition, has not been officiall yinformed when he is to start, but thinks he will get away on the City of Peking on Sunday. Everything is in readiness for the reception of the men on board the steamer, and provisions are being stowed as rapidly as possible. Rations to fast 1,400 men for six months will be taken, besides ammunition, arms and machinery for the repairing of Admiral Dewey's fleet.

Major McCarthy, ranking surgeon at the Presidio, has quarantined the men stricken with measles and there is little danger of the disease spreading. No new cases have been reported. The work of furnishing equipments to the troops already gathered here will be completed tomorrow.

Salt Lake, Utah, May 20.—Batteries A and B, Utah volunteers, Captain Young commanding, comprising 224 officers and men, left Salt Lake at 12:30 p. m. today for San Francisco. Business throughout the city was entirely suspended, school children were given a holiday and 30,000 people who thronged the line of march gave the Utah boys a most enthusiastic farewell.

DOWN AT CHICKAMAUGA

Volunteer Are Being Rapidly Got Into Shape.

Chickamauga, May 20.—General Brooke has completed the formation of the First provisional army corps, United States volunteers. The three brigades of the First division, under command of Major Wilson, is composed of regiments from Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The Second division, Colonel A. K. Arnold commanding, is drawn from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan and Minnesota.

The Third division, Brigadier General J. S. Bates commanding, draws its forces from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Minnesota, Missouri and Kansas.

The Fourteenth Minnesota, in the Second division, and the Twelfth Minnesota, the Second Missouri and the Twenty-first Kansas, in the Third division, are the only regiments from west of the Mississippi regiments in the First corps.

Until the complement of brigadiers has been appointed, each brigade will be in command of the senior colonel. The First corps will be commanded by Major General John R. Brooke, who will also be in command of the Army of the Gulf.

The following regiments arrived today:

First New Hampshire infantry, twelve companies, 1,306 officers and men, commanded by Colonel Robert H. Rolfe.

Second Missouri infantry, twelve companies, 956 officers and men, Colonel W. K. Claffee.

Battery B, Pennsylvania light artillery, 128 officers and men, fully equipped, Captain L. T. Hunt.

The Second New York infantry arrived at 9 o'clock tonight. The regiment has twelve companies, 1,306 officers and men, Colonel E. E. Hardin.

Battery A, First Illinois artillery, Captain Philip Yeager, arrived at 6:30 o'clock.

Tomorrow General Brooke will begin the formation of the Third army corps. Colonel Fred D. Grant, U. S. A., will be made provisional brigadier general of the First brigade of the First division of the corps. His regiment will be the first assigned to the new corps, which will be commanded by General James F. Wade.

Over 30,000 letters were delivered to the troops today.

The story went out from here to the effect that three men had been arrested with arsenic on their persons, with which it was supposed they were about to poison water used by the troops, is a fake pure and simple and was evolved from the imagination of several boys, who are indulging in liquor, cigarettes and other vices and who are here as alleged correspondents of certain newspapers. There is not the slightest foundation for the story, all wells being under constant guard to prevent poison as well as waste of water.