

THE CONQUEST OF PORTO RICO.

American Influence is Beginning to Make Itself Felt.

The Whole Atmosphere Has Changed Since Our Commissioners Arrived.

The Fear and Dread of the Natives Disappear at the Sight of an American Uniform—Porto Ricans Can Now Display the Stars and Stripes Without Fear of Punishment.

(Correspondence of Associated Press, Copyrighted 1898.)

SAN JUAN (Island of Porto Rico), September 6.—The quieting influence of the American conquest...

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review took place in the grand salon of the palace. The call lasted scarcely ten minutes, most of the time being occupied by the general action.

Admiral Schley, who speaks Spanish fluently, engaged the Captain General in conversation after the introductions were completed and the principals had settled themselves with the members of their staffs arranged behind them.

The Spanish uniforms are much more showy than ours. The Captain General was arrayed in a dark blue coat resplendent with gold braid, sparkling with orderly and military rank. His trousers were deep crimson. A polished gentleman of kindly countenance in a most trying position, he placed everyone at his ease by the grace and suavity with which he greeted those who practically came as conquerors to claim a prize.

The Captain General, with his staff, rode to-day to the Hotel Inglaterra, at which Admiral Schley is stopping, and returned the Admiral's visit. Later he called upon General Brooke at Rio Piedras. This does not complete the official duties of the Spanish Commissioner. The Spanish Commissioner must return the visit before the first preliminaries of the work in hand can be entered upon.

Pending our assumption of possession here, the daily progress of this highly interesting old Spanish city is a study. The Spaniard appreciates the fact that the curtain is about to rise upon a new era, but nothing yet is changed. General Otego, who is in active command of the Spanish troops, makes his daily tour of inspection of the forts, batteries and barracks as if Spain were still a military camp.

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BLACK CLOUDS OVERHANG EUROPE.

The Dreyfus, Cretan and Egyptian Questions More Acute.

Difficult at Present to Forecast the Outcome in Either Case.

The Marquis of Salisbury Orders That Most Stringent Measures Be Taken at Candia—Powers Disposed to Give Great Britain a Free Hand to Obtain Reparation for the Massacre of Christians.

(Copyrighted 1898, by Associated Press.)

LONDON, Sept. 17.—Three or four black thunder clouds are overhanging the political horizon of Europe. The Dreyfus, Cretan and Egyptian questions have become more acute and it is difficult at present to forecast the outcome in either case.

An indication of the activity in the official world is found in the fact that the Marquis of Salisbury, who went for a quiet holiday to take the waters of Contreville, has had a special telegraph office established at his hotel this week, in order to deal with the mass of official telegrams pouring in and out. It is understood that the British Premier has ordered that the most stringent measures be taken at Candia, Island of Crete, where British troops were recently fired upon by Mussulmans, the execution of which only awaits the arrival of sufficient reinforcements of her majesty's soldiers, who now number 2,000 there, while another battalion is on its way to Candia from Egypt.

The most recent advice tend to show that the Powers are disposed to give Great Britain a free hand to obtain reparation for the massacre of Christians and the insults to British arms. Admiral Noel, the British naval commander in Cretan waters, has already arranged with the other Admirals to have the immediate disposal of the military contingents. The British squadron now lying before Candia is powerful enough to raze that place in a few hours.

The Turkish authorities at Candia are playing their old game of surrounding a number of British officers and leaders of the massacres, were a number of Bays, who are known to be the real instigators of the trouble, are still at liberty and are likely to remain so, unless considerable further pressure is brought to bear upon the Turks.

As it is, prompt action of the British Admiral gave the Sultan a bad fright. He sent his Foreign Minister to arouse the Embassadors from their beds at 2 o'clock in the morning, in an endeavor to persuade them to put a bridle upon Admiral Noel, but he received no comfort from the representatives of the Powers. The British Charge d'Affaires replied to the Turkish representations in the strongest terms. He said the Mussulmans were "unprovoked murderers of British sailors," and that the British Government took the most serious view of the matter.

Meanwhile the situation at Candia is critical. Thousands of the most notorious Bashi Bazouks have now left the town and fortified themselves just inside the military cordon, while outside the cordon a body of Christian insurgents are gathered. They are like tigers watching for their prey, eager to spring forward if the Bashi Bazouks attempt to leave the town. The chances of bloody fighting hinge upon the Turkish Government and Edhem Pasha, the Turkish Governor, who has asked for instructions, after having been notified by Admiral Noel that the Mussulman population must be dispersed. The British Admiral is apparently determined to enforce the disarmament of the Bashi Bazouks, whether it is agreeable to the Sultan or not.

The absence of news from Fashoda, the important place about 400 miles south of Khartoum, which is reported to have been occupied by a French force, has put the British upon tenterhooks; but they have implicit faith in the British commander, General Sir Herbert Kitchener, and have cheerfully assumed that the British and Egyptian flags are already flying there, whether Major Marchand, the French commander, is there or is not there.

The British newspapers have taken a most uncompromising attitude in regard to Fashoda. They are daily issuing warnings to France, telling her to let loose and off or trouble will follow, and there is no doubt the Marquis of Salisbury will have the nation behind him, even if General Kitchener has to oust Major Marchand from Fashoda by force of arms.

The French newspapers, which first took the matter quietly, are now indulging in truculent articles. They declare that if Major Marchand is really at Fashoda he will stay there. The idea that Fashoda is within the Egyptian sphere is pooh-poohed. Otherwise, it is asked, what right has Great Britain to Uganda, which belonged to the former Egyptian equatorial province.

The "Echo de Paris" says: "The Sirdan's forces dare not fire upon Major Marchand, for France is behind him. England must now consent to a European conference unless she wants war." The "Soleil" adopts the perfidious Alton line of argument, and thinks the report of Major Marchand's arrival at Fashoda is a British trick to prepare public opinion for an immediate advance upon Fashoda before the French arrive there.

The interesting announcement is made that the whole cost of the Nile campaign since 1896 has been only £2,600,000, including £1,000,000 spent upon the Soudan railroads, of which 500 miles have been constructed during that time. General Kitchener has decided to destroy the tomb of the Mahdi at Omdurman, which was so prominent a mark for the British artillery during the bombardment. This step will be taken in order to prevent Omdurman becoming a second Mecca.

How the United States will administer its new possessions and how large these possessions will be, continues to be the subject for considerable speculation in the European newspapers. David Christie Murray writes: "The republic has on her shoulders the mantle of Empire, and has taken the scepter of Empire in her hands and has set upon her own head the crown of Empire, and the whole world knows that it is the richer for the fact. It is one of the most momentous historical happenings of modern years, and is full of augury for the progress of the land we know well already, and that she will conform herself to her new duties all men who are really acquainted with her people are assured beforehand."

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BRITONS SUFFER FOR WATER.

The Drought Throughout the Empire Continues.

Hopes Raised by a Fall in the Barometer Doomed to Disappointment.

The Supply in the East End of London Reduced to Dangerous Limits—Sanitary Conditions in Some Districts So Bad That a Serious Epidemic is Likely to Follow.

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LONDON, Sept. 17.—The drought continues throughout the greater part of Great Britain. A temporary fall in the barometer early in the week raised hopes, which were doomed to disappointment. The temperature has again risen and London continues bathed in sunshine.

The outcry in the East End of London, where the supply of water has been reduced to dangerous limits, is taking the form of influential public meetings, which violently denounce the East End Water Company for neglecting to take proper means to assure a supply of water and calling for municipal control of the water works.

In the meanwhile sanitary conditions are so bad in some districts that there is serious fear of epidemic. The north of London is also suffering intransigent in the shape of a street car famine, due to a strike of the hostlers and the consequent dismissal of a couple of agitators. The many thousands of business people who rely upon cheap conveyance to the city have been seriously inconvenienced by such stoppages of traffic, which occurred on Wednesday last.

Public sympathy inclines to the side of the company, which has taken the bull by the horns and has dismissed all the strikers, engaging outsiders to take their places. The outbreak of Great Britain has been started by an epidemic of railroad outrages. On the Northwestern and Midland railroads, in the neighborhood of Northampton, there have been several attempts to wreck passenger trains. Formidable obstructions were constructed across the track and one express train had a most narrow escape from disaster. It plowed through a veritable barricade, but did not leave the rails. The most alarming feature of the outrage is the fact that the police have not been able to obtain the slightest clew to the perpetrators, though a hundred detectives have been scouring the district. Consequently a panic prevails. One theory is that the crimes are the work of a band of trainwreckers looking for plunder and emulating the Far West hold-ups.

After passing eight weeks in an invalid's chair, the Prince of Wales this week, for the first time, was able to walk a few paces with the aid of a stick. He traveled to Balmoral from his yacht to Portsmouth. Private letters declare the Prince lately has been very irritable at the enforced restraint, that he has even declared that permanent limp would be a cheap penalty to pay for release from his floating prison. It is added that the attending physicians finally yielded and allowed the Prince to journey to Scotland in order to appease their patient and also to arrest the strong stimulus which a rest and sea-air appetite have given to his increasing stoutness. The hair apparent will still continue to wear for many weeks to come the apparatus which has been fitted to his knee.

The Duke of Connaught has been the hero of the French army maneuvers around Moulins, which he attended as President Faure's chief guest. He first distinguished himself by a splendid display of horsemanship before the French staff, when a borrowed horse, startled by the firing, tried to bolt, reared and fell. The Duke skillfully disengaged himself unhurt.

On the following day, during a halt, he minutely examined a French soldier's knapsack. He had one of them emptied on the ground, weighed the articles, and finally took the knapsack, strapping it on his own shoulders, and walked up and down in front of the President and the General in order to test whether the straps hampered his movements. The spectators were greatly amused and the private soldiers loudly cheered him.

Yesterday the Duke of Connaught visited the French camp kitchens and, following the great Napoleon's precedent, he asked to be allowed to taste the soldiers' food, remarking: "I must only take a tiny morsel, as I am robbing somebody's share." Then he forked out and ate a piece of beef, which he pronounced to be of excellent quality. The Duke also examined the men's overcoats, testing their weight and texture.

These incidents have made the Duke very popular with the French soldiers and villagers. At the hamlet of Ennomond they had a great feast in which the thirty President of the Republic and Queen Victoria's son stop before a little public house and call for and toss off glasses of light beer, while the hurriedly-assembled band played, "God Save the Queen." President Faure then decorated the Duke with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor.

The leading newspapers here scathingly review Herr Moritz Busch's "Life of Prince Bismarck," which was recently published. The general opinion is that both the author and his idol suffered greatly by the revelations made. The British naturally chiefly resent the late Prince Bismarck's expressions of hostility to Great Britain and to the Queen and her daughter, the former Empress Frederick of Germany, with which the book teems.

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Prisoners Meet Death in a Fire. STAFFORD SPRINGS (Conn.), Sept. 17.—Two prisoners confined for the night in the town lock-up, Ernest Bradford, aged 27 years, and John Marsh, aged 40, met their death to-day in a fire which originated in the cell occupied by Bradford. Bradford evidently died from suffocation, probably while asleep. Marsh's body was literally baked. They had been arrested for drunkenness.

PEACE COMMISSIONERS.

THE AMERICAN MEMBERS SAIL FOR FRANCE.

Former Secretary of State Day Thinks American Terms Will Be Reasonable.

(Copyrighted 1898, by Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—The United States Commissioners to conclude the terms of peace with Spain sailed to-day on board the Cunard line steamer Campania, en route to Paris.

The party are J. H. Moore, Secretary, and counsel to the commission; John R. MacArthur, Assistant Secretary, and wife; Frank Branigan, disbursing clerk, and Mrs. Branigan; Miss Atkinson and Miss McNaughton, stenographers, and Edward W. Saver and Henry Freeman, confidential messengers.

Prior to going on the steamer, Judge Day said to a reporter: "We had a conference with the Cabinet before leaving Washington, at least all of us except Senator Gray. All understand the wishes of the Cabinet with reference to the terms of the treaty, and I believe that there will be practically no change after our conference with the Spanish Commissioners."

"Do you expect much opposition to the terms from the Spanish Commissioners?" "I think that the American terms will be regarded as reasonable, and therefore I believe the work of the Commissioners will not be impeded by useless discussion. Senator Frye would say nothing as to the intention of the Commissioners. As to the commission going to Paris with irrefragable conditions to be placed before the Spanish Commissioners, the Senator said that school boys might just as well be sent if such was the case. He declared that nobody could tell what new conditions might arise which would have to be met, discussed and decided wholly by the commission.

Senator Gray had no idea of the time it would take to complete the work of the meeting. He said that Spanish diplomats were not hasty in their work. Besides the five American Peace Commissioners and their retinue of thirty-two persons, there were as passengers aboard the Campania: Count Charles D'Ursel, Belgian Minister of the Congo Free State; Frank W. Macdonald, a special Belgian Commissioner, who has been investigating the higher branches of commercial education in the United States, and James H. Brad, delegate from the Amnesty Commission, and expelled prisoner in England, who has been chosen sword-bearer to the municipality of Dublin.

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SPAIN'S TROUBLES ONLY JUST BEGUN.

Disappointment Over Selection of the Peace Commission.

Only Followers of Sagasta Would Consent to Serve Upon It.

The Premier's Efforts to Make It of National Character Proved a Failure—Outbreaks and Anarchy Likely to Follow the Conclusion of the Peace Agreement—Weyler Aiming at a Dictatorship.

(Copyrighted 1898, by Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.—A dispatch to the "Tribune" from Madrid via Paris says: It is a bitter disappointment to Premier Sagasta that he has failed to get for Spanish Peace Commissioners representative men of all parties to give an expression of the Madrid Foreign Office as to the selection of the peace commission. In spite of all his promises and persuasion, the Premier has been unable to obtain the consent of any statesmen outside of his own immediate followers who are willing to act on the commission, where, to use an expression of Senor Silveira, "Spain can employ nothing but empty words and parables to oppose any demands the American Commissioners may see fit to make."

The sitting of the Cortes, and especially Count Almenara's violent onslaught upon the Generals, which is said to be endorsed by numbers of younger officers of the army, are regarded as foreshadowing events of a far greater importance that cannot be avoided after the signing of the peace treaty. The sole point upon which all parties here seem to agree is that the Senor Sagasta must remain in power until the conclusion of peace, and thereby drink the dregs of the cup which his enemies maintain he has himself brewed.

The alleged intention of the United States to demand the island of Luzon is regarded by the Madrid Foreign Office as infringing upon the peace protocol. If Spain is compelled to cede that island to the United States, great efforts will be made to retain the right to determine the disposal of all the other Philippine Islands, with the view of eventually abandoning them altogether.

On this point it is even asserted that an arrangement is under discussion with Germany by which Germany would get, by way of a "broker commission," Palawan and Sulu.

In reference to the Philippines, it is significant that the drift of opinion among the members of the Cortes is that if Spain must cede to the United States anything more than a mere coaling station, it would then be preferable to withdraw Spanish sovereignty entirely. Among civilians, too, a certain abandonment is considered the wisest policy, and especially now that military men like Senor Polavieja say that, under the new system, a permanent garrison of at least 50,000 would be required to hold the islands, and that to maintain such a force would be a veritable tax on the national resources. In diplomatic circles here great confidence is felt that the Spanish Peace Commissioners will succeed in saddling upon Cuba that portion of the Cuban debt incurred by the Madrid Foreign Office in its rebellion, and which is said to be guaranteed by the Cuban customs receipts.

The internal political question is more dismal than the military leaders think. Although they presented a solid front during the recent session of the Cortes, they are in reality divided among themselves. The Queen Regent has already discounted Senor Sagasta's eventual retirement, and pins her faith in Senor Polavieja, whose lack of political experience is pointed out by Senor Silveira or Senor Canalejas. They are ready to join hands with Senor Lora Castillo, who, during his present stay in Madrid, has been almost hourly consulted by the Queen Regent.

It is impossible longer to conceal the fact that the Ministerial leaders are now preparing to act as soon as peace is signed. General Weyler never misses an opportunity to discredit the dynasty, and is bitterly opposed to Senor Polavieja. Weyler is believed to be aiming at an outright dictatorship in his own person, and it is known that he has promised the highest and most lucrative places to his military followers. The Queen, however, is firmly convinced that Polavieja will, when the time comes, prove more than a match for Weyler.

The great danger in the situation is that the military element is considered as offering the only solution of the present difficulties, which party passion has so embittered that cool-headed men fear an era of pronouncements, dictatorship and civil war.

National Lined Oil Company. ST. LOUIS, Sept. 17.—Holders of \$3,000,000 of stocks in the National Lined Oil Company met to-day and decided to call a general meeting of stockholders in this city for next Tuesday evening. At the meeting, the St. Louis stockholders will determine their attitude to the organization scheme proposed by the directors. Charles Hodgman, St. Louis director in the company, commends this move on the part of the stockholders here.

Howell Accepts. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—E. P. Howell of Atlanta, Ga., who was asked by the President to serve on the commission to investigate certain departments of the army in connection with the war, was at the White House to-day and formally accepted the appointment.

General Schofield Declines to Serve. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—After a half-hour's conference with the President to-day, General Schofield announced that he would not serve as a member of the commission to investigate the conduct of the war.

Condition of the Treasury. WASHINGTON, Sept. 17.—To-day's statement of the condition of the treasury shows: Available cash balance, \$317,968,184; gold reserve, \$263,544,824.

Earthquakes in Maine. PORTLAND (Me.), Sept. 17.—Two earthquake shocks occurred in Deering this morning. The first was felt at 10:45, lasting several seconds, followed after an interval of eleven seconds by a second shock lasting five seconds.