The Wheeling Intelligencer.

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PEACE PREDICTIONS

Are not out of Line with Some of the Many Surface Indications.

THE RETURN OF CAMARA'S FLEET

Is Very Suggestive of Spain's Preparation to Salve its Fractured Honor, Which is About all it has Left to Administer Upon—The Spanish are in a Desperate Plight at Santiago, and if there is no Surrender at Noon to-day,—Well, Then, Shafter and Sampson will Know the Reason Why—Worriment Over the Proper Treatment of the Distinguished Spanish Prisoner, Cervera.

WASHINGTON, July 7.—There was a continuation of peace talk to-day, and other evidences in this line than those of yesterday are coming to the surface. Such, for instance, was the confirmation, by the state department of the report that the Cadiz fleet was returning to Spain. Since it is scarcely conceivable that the Spanish government would doom this last remnant of their fleet to destruction at the hands of Watson's squadron, which, in all probability, could head it before it reached Cadiz, its home port, therefore, the assumption is that the Spanish government calculates that at least an armistice precedent to peace will be obtained before the ships reach Spain.

An unusually definite report was in circulation that the United States had been sounded in the interest of peace by the British ambassador, but when it was brought to Ambassador Julian Pauncefote's attention, he authorized an explicit denial, and said he had not communicated with the government in any way regarding the termination of the war.

Conditions at Santiago also are regarded as favorable just now, according to General Shafter's dispatch received during the forenoon. Nothing came from him during the day, but the impression prevails that the Spaniards are in a desperate plight within the lines of the city, and General Shafter's action in allowing Linares to communicate freely with Madrid is an implication that there is at least a reasonable hope that the Spanish general contemplates a surrender.

Preparing for the Final Stroke.

However that may be, every preparation is making for a great engagement, the final one, at Santiago, it is hoped, which may begin, even as early as to-morrow if Shafter's reinforcements are on hand. The department has not heard so far of the arrival of these soldiers, but believes they have reached Shafter. The greatest difficulty that has been encountered is in the landing of the troops and supplies. This being the hurricane season, and the wind setting straight on the southern coast, the masters of the transports have become alarmed and taken their ships many miles out to sea, necessitating long journeys by the ship's boats, which make their landing through the surf with the greatest difficulty and danger. So slow and tedious has been the service that Secretary Alger has ordered General Shafter to seize the transports, one and all, and place them as near the coast as he chooses, without regard to the fears of their masters. Ten days ago lighters were started down from Mobile and Tampa, but so far General Shafter has received only one. These lighters have been a nightmare to the department ever since. The captains tie up in creeks at the slightest sign of bad weather, while the charter rate of $100 a day runs on. Orders have been sent forward to terminate this state of things, even if it is necessary to lose a few lighters in the effort to reach Shafter.

The Disposition of Cervera.

The government has not yet determined how to dispose of Admiral Cervera. A feeling of the highest admiration prevails here at the gallantry displayed by the old warrior and the noble spirit exhibited by him under misfortune. The disposition is to treat him with as great liberality as conditions will permit. It has been proposed that he be released on parole, not to engage in hostilities against the United States until the end of the war, but it has not yet been decided whether to do this, or to confine the admiral technically within the limits of the naval academy reservation at Annapolis. All the other captured Spanish officers will be allowed to remain with the enlisted men at the prison station, at Seavey island, Portsmouth harbor, New Hampshire. The St. Louis is due there to-night or to-morrow with the first lot of prisoners, while the Harvard is just about to start from off Santiago with the remainder.

The report of the appearance of a Spanish privateer off the coast of British Columbia, which appears to have created such commotion on the northwestern coast, came from one of the government agents in that section of the world. Moreover, the same person said that two vessels were taking on coal at a British Columbian port, which, it was presumed, was intended for the Spanish fleet should it have made its way into the Pacific ocean through the Suez canal.

The failure of Congress to act on the naval advancement special acts may after all be beneficial as enabling the President to arrange with more deliberation and justice a scale of rewards for meritorious officers.

SITUATION IN SPAIN.

Cabinet Discussions Have Been Without Result, Although Some of the Ministers Have Assumed a More Conciliatory Attitude.

LONDON, July 9.—The Madrid correspondent of the Times says:

"The frequent cabinet discussions of the peace question have been without result, except that the ministers who had most strongly advocated war, have assumed a slightly more conciliatory attitude and the field of discussion is somewhat narrowed.

"The government would probably prefer suing for peace to suffering an indefinite blockade, but it fears the large body of patriotic opinion in favor of resisting to the bitter end if Cuba is blockaded.

It is to be hoped that the Americans will find some means of controlling the ferocity of their savage allies. A profound impression has been made here by the rumors that the Americans had handed over Spanish prisoners to Cuban insurgents who beheaded them."

MADRID, July 8.—La Correspondencia d'Espana says there is a feeling of alarm due to a belief that United States warships Oregon, Texas and New York are now on their way to Spain and that precautions are being taken at all the seaports to avoid a surprise.

The ministers are divided in their opinions as to the advisability of immediate negotiations for peace. The war party is inclined to adopt the view of Marshal Martinez Campos who considers that the army must first, by a noble victory, wipe out the defeat of the navy.

The peace party urges direct negotiations with the United States rather than through powers whose selfishness has allowed Spain to be crushed by a strong enemy and who may now intrigue for harder conditions, desiring to profit by her dismemberment.

The cabinet council this evening considered the questions of new cables and military measures necessary in view of an American attack upon Spanish ports.

All rumors as to peace negotiations are semi-officially declared to be unfounded.

CAIRO, Egypt, July 8.—Admiral Camara, the commander of the Spanish fleet which was bound for the Philippine Islands, and recently passed through the Suez Canal, has informed the Egyptian government that he has been ordered to return to Spain. Therefore his ships will go through the canal immediately, and will proceed westward. The Spanish warships will now be allowed to coal, as they are returning home.

THEY WANT PEACE

But are Preparing for a Further Continuation of the War.

LONDON, July 8.—A special dispatch from Madrid, reviewing the situation, says:

"All Spain knows of her defeat and the people are beginning to realize the magnitude of the disaster. The conservative press exhorts good citizens to maintain peace. An important circular has been sent to all the Republican organizations signed by the leaders and bearing the motto 'Prepare.' In the meanwhile extraordinary military precautions have been taken to quell any international troubles.

"General Correa, the minister for war, and his secretaries are working day and night. A second call has been issued for the Canary island reserves and additional forces of home infantry and cavalry are being raised, while the artillery is being augmented by two pieces to each battery.

"The peninsula armies will total up 220,000 men by July 15. The railroads are preparing war trains on all lines and carriages are in readiness at all the garrison stations. A high authority, however, expresses the opinion that the rank and file of the soldiery are inclined to condemn the war and feel they are being driven to bloodshed for unjust causes by scheming politicians, and he therefore doubts the army's attitude in the event of civil troubles.

"The officers too, while anxious for war, are divided on the question of loyalty to the various claimants to the throne. This question of secession is an important feature in an intense situation. It is believed the government is anxious to find a pretext to arrest General Weyler, fearing the part he might play in the event of troubles breaking out."

According to a dispatch received here from Havana, Captain General Blanco openly urges the continuation of the war. The newspapers of this city say the moment has not arrived to seek for peace, one of them adding: "We find ourselves in a position from which we are able to make our enemies feel the consequences of the war."

The refusal of the Cuban cable companies to transmit dispatches franked by the Spanish government, in spite of the conditions of the concessions, occasions the liveliest discontent here. The Spaniards believe this action is due to the orders of the British government, which, according to the newspapers of Madrid, is raising constant difficulties in the way of Spain and in giving frequent proofs of its partiality for the United States. Spain, it appears, has complained to the cable companies whose offices are in London, but without any result.

SPANISH TERRORISM.

How the "Barbarians" are Stimulating the Fighting Qualities of Their Soldiers Without Food.

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PLAYA DEL ESTE, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, July 8.—6 p. m.—A Spanish soldier, terribly emaciated and so weak that he could hardy walk, was picked up by men from the United States gunboat Annapolis to-day, at a point near the entrance to the upper bay. He had no rifle, for he was too weak to carry it.

According to his story, there are many Spanish soldiers in Guantanamo in the same condition of starvation. He says there is absolutely nothing to eat there, but that the Spanish are daily told that if they surrender to the Americans they are sure to be murdered.

A captain and three privates from Baracao came into the bay to-day in a small sail boat and were picked up by the cruiser Marblehead. They were ostensibly greaty surprised and claimed not to have known that the bay was in the possession of the Americans. They report that there is a great scarcity of food at Baracao and that the Spanish troops there are in bad shape.

Over 20,000 rations for reconcentrados have been landed across the bay by Commander McCalla, of the Marblehead, and the half starved Cubans are flocking in from the hills for food.

HOBSON'S RETURN

To his old Shipmates on the New York the Occasion for a Tremendous Ovation

OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, July 7, by the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, via PORT ANTONIO and KINGSTON, July 8, 9:15 a. m.—The return of Assistant Naval Constructor Richmond P. Hobson, of Merrimac fame, to his ship, the flagship New York last night, was marked by wild enthusiasm. It was dark when a shout was passed along the ship that Hobson was coming. On the superstructure clambered the crew, ten deep and on the quarter deck the officers clustered around the sea ladder and a hundred hands were outstretched to grasp Hobson.

It was not until he was safe once more on deck that the crew of the New York cheered and then they broke out into a wild yell, which went up over and over again until the men were hoarse. Numbers of the crew rushed forward on the quarter deck and a great group of men struggled around the tall figure of the man who had dared so much.

Behind Hobson came Col. John Jacob Astor and the first thing Hobson tried to do was to introduce him to the officers, but Colonel Astor got lost in the crowd which surged around insisting upon shaking Hobson's hand. The transports blew their whistles.

Hobson sat once more among his messmates and told the story of his experience, his marvelous escape and his imprisonment in Morro Castle, watching the shells explode outside his cell under a murderous fire.

"I did not miss the entrance to the harbor," he said, "as Ensign Powell in the launch supposed. I headed east until I got my bearings and then made for it, straight in. Then came the firing. It was grand, flashing out first from one side of the harbor and then the other from those big guns on the hills, the Viscaya lying inside the harbor, joining in.

"Troops from Santiago had rushed down when the news of the Merrimac's coming was telegraphed and soldiers lined the foot of the cliffs firing wildly across and killing each other with the cross fire. The Merrimac's steering gear broke as she got to Estralla Point. Only three of the torpedoes on her side exploded when I touched the button. A large submarine mine caught full amidships, hurling the water high in the air and tearing a great rent in the Merrimac's side.

"Her stern ran upon Estrella Point. Chiefly owing to the work done by the mine she began to sink slowly. At that time she was across the channel but before she settled the tide drifted her around. We were all aft, lying on the deck. Shells and bullets whistled around. Six-inch shells from the Vizcaya came tearing into the Merrimac, crashing into wood and iron and passing clear through, while the plunging shots from the fort broke through her decks.

"'Not a man must move,' I said, and it was only owing to the splendid discipline of the men that all of us were not killed, as the shells rained over us and minutes became hours of suspense. The man's mouths grew parched, but we must lie there till daylight, I told them. Now and again one or the other of the men lying with his face glued to the deck and wondering whether the next shell would not come our way, would say: 'Hadn't we better drop off now, sir?' but I said: 'Wait till daylight.'

"It would have been impossible to get the catamaran anywhere near but to the shore where the soldiers stood shooting, and I hoped that by daylight we might be recognized and saved. The grand old Merrimac kept sinking. I wanted to go forward and see the damage done there where nearly all the fire was directed, but one man said that if I rose it would draw the fire on the rest. So I lay motionless. It was splendid the way these men behaved. The fire of the soldiers, the batteries and the Vizcaya was awful. When the water came up on the Merrimac's decks the catamaran floated amid the wreckage, but was still made fast by the boom and we caught hold of the edge and clung on, our heads being above water.

"One man thought we were safer right there; it was quite light, the firing had ceased except that on the New York launch, and I feared Ensign Powell and his men had been killed.

HOBSON TALKS

About his Experiences on the Merrimac. Why the Sinking of the Ship was not Successful.

NEW YORK, July 8.—A dispatch to the Herald from off Santiago de Cuba, says: Your correspondent saw Mr. Hobson after he had made his report to Admiral Sampson and he consented to give the Herald a fuller interview about his experiences.

He spoke in glowing terms of the courage and bravery of his crew.

"We have been thirty-three days in a Spanish prison," said Mr. Hobson, "and the more I think about it the more marvelous it seems that we are alive.

"It was about 3 o'clock in the morning when the Merrimac entered the narrow channel and steamed in under the guns of Morro castle. The stillness of death prevailed. It was so dark that we could scarcely see the headland. We had planned to drop our starboard anchor at a certain point to the right of the channel, reverse our engines and then swing the Merrimac around, sinking her directly across the channel.

"This plan was adhered to, but circumstances rendered its execution impossible. When the Merrimac poked her nose into the channel our troubles commenced. The deadly silence was broken by the wash of a small boat approaching us from the shore. I made her out to be a picket boat.

"She ran close up under the stern of the Merrimac and fired several shots from what seemed to be three-pounder guns. The Merrimac's rudder was carried away by this fire. That is why the collier was not sunk across the channel.

"We did not discover the loss of the rudder until Murphy cast anchor. We then found that the Merrimac would not answer to the helm and were compelled to make the best of the situation.

"The run up the channel was very exciting. The picket boat had given the alarm and in a moment the guns of the Vizcaya, the Almirante Oquendo, and of the shore batteries were turned upon us.

"Submarine mines and torpedoes also were exploded all about us, adding to the excitement. The mines did no damage, although we could hear rumbling and could feel the ship tremble.

"We were running without lights and only the darkness saved us from utter destruction. When the ship was in the desired position and we found that the rudder was gone, I called the men on deck. While they were launching the catamarin I touched off the explosives.

"At the same moment two torpedoes, fired by the Reina Mercedes, struck the Merrimac amidships. I cannot say whether our own explosives or the Spanish torpedoes did the work, but the Merrimac was lifted out of the water and almost rent asunder.

"As she settled down we scrambled overboard and cut away the catamarin. A great cheer went up from the forts and warships as the hull of the collier foundered, the Spaniards thinking the Merrimac was an American warship.

"We attempted to get out of the harbor on the catamaran, but a strong tide was running and daylight found us still struggling in the water. Then for the first time the Spaniards saw us and a boat from the Reina Mercedes picked us up. It was then shortly after five o'clock in the morning, and we had been in the water more than an hour. We were taken aboard the Reina Mercedes, and later sent to Morro castle.

"In Morro we were confined in cells in the inner side of the fortress and were the first day the fleet bombarded Morro. I could only hear the whistling of the shells and the noise they made when struck but I judged from the conversation of the guards that the shells did considerable damage.

"After this bombardment Mr. Ramsden, the British consul, protested and we were removed to the hospital. There I was separated from the other men in our crew, and could see them only by special permission. Montague and Kelly fell ill two weeks ago, suffering from malaria, and I was permitted to visit them twice.

"Mr. Ramsden was very kind to us and demanded that Montague and Kelly be removed to better quarters in the hospital. This was done.

"As for myself, there is little to say. The Spanish were not disposed to do much for the comfort of any of the prisoners at first, but, after our army had taken some of their men as prisoners, their treatment was better. Food is scarce in the city and I was told that we fared better than the Spanish officers."

CONGRESS ADJOURNS.

The Dignified Senate Closes Its Doors Without Incident, but the House Affords some Excitement to Spectators and Gives an Exhibition of Red Hot Patriotism.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—In a manner so simple as to be almost perfunctory the senate at 2:05 this afternoon adjourned without delay.

None of the dramatic and exciting scenes usually attendant upon the adjournment of Congress was enacted during the closing hours of the senate's session. It had been agreed when the senate convened at noon that the house resolution providing for the adjournment of Congress at 2 p. m. to-day, should be adopted and an executive session should be held to confirm the nominations in the military and naval establishments. No other business except the merest routine nature was to be transacted. The arrangement was carried out to the letter.

For nearly an hour previous to adjournment, President McKinley and all members of his cabinet except Secretary Day and Secretary Long, were in the President's room, adjoining the senate chamber. During that time the President signed a large number of engrossed bills, many of which would have failed had it been necessary to send them to the executive mansion for his signature.

LIVELY IN THE HOUSE.

Sensational Scene Ends Happily, and the House Adjourns with Cheers for the President, the Naval Heroes and Singing of Patriotic Songs.

The end of this session of Congress in the house was marked by two notable incidents. One was sensationally partisan, well-nigh resulting in personal conflict upon the floor of the house. The scene followed a motion of Mr. Handy, (Dem., Del.), to strike from the record portions of partisan remarks of Mr. Ray, (Rep., N. Y.), in a speech made yesterday. Handy contended that Ray had not made the remarks which appeared on the record. Ray in reply declared he had uttered every word.

Members clung to the hope of getting their bills through in the remaining hour of the session and desired to have the Ray-Handy incident closed. The house became excited and Cannon, (Rep. Ills.), denounced the Democrats for delaying legislation. A vote was taken and the house declined to strike out the speech. Handy then called for division and demanded tellers.

Cannon stepped into the aisle and again declared the Democrats were deliberately obstructing business.

Ball, (Dem., Texas), addressing the Republican side, declared: "The record is false and you knew it was false when you voted against correcting it."

"That is a lie," cried Mr. Cannon, and in an instant the belligerent members were struggling to reach each other, while many others were pulling and struggling to control them. The house was upon its feet. Marshall, (Rep., Ills.), seized Mr. Cannon and thrust him aside, and when Mr. Ball asked Mr. Cannon to "come outside," and the latter was moving to comply, Mr. Lewis, (Dem., Wash.), took charge of the Illinois member and restrained him. Meantime the speaker had been pounding hard, and the sergeant-at-arms, Mr. Russell, had seized the big silver mace and was moving among the members where the greatest disorder prevailed. Order was restored slowly and a roll call proceeded.

The roll call upon Mr. Handy's motion to strike out resulted, yeas 58; nays 106. Later in the session Mr. Cannon explained that Mr. Ball had addressed his remarks not to him personally, and therefore he desired to withdraw his offensive statement.

The house then passed the bill to reimburse the states for expenses incurred in transporting, feeding, clothing, and caring for soldiers in aid of organization of the volunteer army.

The second incident referred to was a much more agreeable one. In the latter all members joined irrespective of party affiliations. Upon the announcement of the adjournment of the house there were cheers followed by singing of patriotic songs. Representative Bromwell proposed three cheers for President McKinley, which were given twice over. Then followed cheers joined in by the entire house, for Admiral Dewey, Schley, Sampson, Hobson and General Joe Wheeler.

The whole house was one vast demonstration, and flags were passed about to every member and were enthusiastically waved while the members sang the close of the Fifty-fifth Congress.

West Virginia Officers Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—In addition to the confirmation of to-day's nominations the senate confirmed the following:

Volunteer Infantry—Fourth regiment, to be first lieutenant, Horace M. Patton, of West Virginia. To be second lieutenant, J. A. Thayer, of West Virginia.

Volunteer engineers—Third regiment, to be first lieutenants, James P. Barney, J. D. Fauntleroy, of Virginia. Second lieutenant, S. D. Brady, of West Virginia.

Excellent Promotions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—The President to-day sent these nominations to the senate:

Volunteer army—Brigadier Generals of volunteers to be major generals—Hamilton S. Hawkins, Henry W. Lawton, Adna R. Chaffee, John C. Bates.

To be brigadier general—Colonel Leopard Wood, First Regiment United States volunteer cavalry; Lieutenant-colonel, Chambers McKibbin, Twenty-first infantry.

First regiment volunteer cavalry, to be colonel, Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, First regiment, United States volunteer cavalry.

ARMISTICE EXTENDED

Before Santiago Until To-day at Noon, to Allow the Spanish Commander to Confer with Blanco and Hear From Madrid. The Truce Affords the American Army Long Needed Rest.

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MAJOR GENERAL SHAFTER'S HEADQUARTERS, Before Santiago de Cuba, July 7, by the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, via Port Antonio and Kingston, Jamaica, July 8.—9 a. m.—The armistice has been extended until noon on Saturday, in order to allow General Linares to communicate with Captain General Blanco and with Madrid.

General Linares informed General Shafter that he had no telegraph operator and one was sent into the city, accompanied by the British consul, F. W. Ramsden, under the British flag.

Not a shot has been fired recently on either side, but work is being pushed on the batteries and entrenchments. Our position has been greatly strengthened during the last forty-eight hours, the American lines advancing to within 400 yards of the enemies and our hillside batteries overlook and command the city.

General Lawton's division advanced 500 yards to the enemy's great surprise.

The dynamite gun of Colonel Woods' rough riders, in charge of Sergeant Hallett Alltop Burrowe, has been beautifully placed, hidden in a snug pit.

The streams have been bridged over, allowing the transportation of heavy artillery with facility and the roads have been greatly improved. The general health of the soldiers is good.

The armistice is affording a long-needed rest for our men and they are now in good shape to resume fighting.

General Linares is evidently weakening and the mediation of the bishop of Santiago and the consular corps may persuade him to surrender.

In case hostilities are resumed the plan of assault is for Rear Admiral Sampson to bombard the forts at the mouth of the harbor, driving the men away from the guns and then land a thousand men and occupy the forts, while launches, with grappling irons go in and countermine the harbor. The fleet will then enter and bombard the city, supporting the land assault.

General Garcia, the insurgent commander, received orders yesterday not to attack the Spaniards while the negotiations are on foot.

The wrecked Spanish cruisers are still filled with charred bodies, and the buzzards are devouring the remains. The Cubans, by Rear Admiral Sampson's orders have buried the bodies of over 100 Spaniards which were washed ashore.

THE PRISONERS

Captured in Various Engagements at Santiago Amount to 1,750—The Fight of the Osceola and Scorpion with Spanish Gunboats and Batteries at Manzanillo.

(Copyright, 1898, by the Associated Press.)

OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, July 7, by the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, via PORT ANTONIO and KINGSTON, Jamaica, July 8, 10 a. m.—The United States auxiliary cruiser Harvard has sailed for Portsmouth, N. H., with the remainder of the prisoners, the total now being 1,750.

A board of officers to-day is inspecting the Cristobal Colon and it is hoped she may be saved. Naval Constructor Hobson is on board the Spanish cruiser and is about to value the Infanta Maria Teresa. The Vizcaya and Almirante Oquendo are worthless wrecks.

Admiral Cervera, before leaving the harbor of Santiago de Cuba on Sunday morning, signalled the following message to his fleet:

"The admiral to his dear children: He hopes that God will grant us a prompt victory."

Eighteen eight-inch shells from the New York were fired last Friday, and it is now learned that they landed in the city, doing great damage. They were fired over the hills. Ashore it is believed that Santiago will surrender. If not, Rear Admiral Sampson will shell the city.

The report of the engagement on July 1 at Manzanillo between the Scorpion and the Osceola and some Spanish gunboats was received here to-day. The American gunboats entered the harbor and found one gunboat of 1,000 tons, two of about three hundred tons, one very small boat and a receiving ship made into a floating battery. Two shore batteries and a force of soldiers who kept up a fire of musketry opened with the Spanish gunboats on the Scorpion and Osceola. On account of the shallow water, the commander of the Scorpion says, the American boats could not go close inshore.

For twenty minutes the fight was kept up, the gatling guns on the Osceola mowing the soldiers down and the Scorpion's heavy armament damaging the gunboats. Then the Americans left the harbor and lay outside close to the entrance, but the Spanish gunboats did not come out.

The Scorpion was hit twelve times and her deck was somewhat torn up. The Osceola was hit several times. There were no casualties, however, on the American boats.

ELEVEN LIGHTERS LOST

During a Storm Off the Cuban Coast—No Lives Taken.

WASHINGTON, July 8.—The war department was advised to-night that during a severe storm off the coast of Cuba eleven lighters enroute to Santiago in tow of tugs were swamped and lost. So far as known no lives were taken. The lighters were from Mobile, New Orleans and Charleston, and were intended for the use of General Shafter in transferring supplies and ordnance from the transports to shore. Their need was essential to the prompt forwarding of all military necessaries to the front before Santiago.

The war department upon receipt of this information immediately put into operation efforts to replace the lost lighters at once.

ENCOURAGING STATEMENTS

From the Business World—The Surprisingly Large Decrease in Trading Defaults for the half Year—Industries are well Employed.

NEW YORK, July 8.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly report of trade will say to-morrow:

The usual half yearly statement of failures by branches of business is peculiarly interesting because it shows that war and fears of war have not caused an increase in commercial disasters. The surprisingly large and general decrease in trading defaults would without doubt be accompanied by corresponding returns as to manufacturing, but for excessive expansion in some lines and the helpless condition reached by a few large firms in other branches. Failures during the second quarter have been smaller than in the same quarter of the past four years in trading and in manufacturing smaller than in the same quarter of any year, excepting 1894.

The fiscal year has ended with financial results a shade beyond general expectations, and the new war tax begins to increase revenue, not seriously disturbing business in any line. No reason yet appears to apprehend that the war revenue will fall below expectations.

Criticism of crop estimates is the less needful because the best authorities all agree that supplies for the coming year promise to greatly exceed home requirements and a full export demand, though for a month or two yet Europe may require much more than usual. This will help to sustain the market, while the earlier receipts are coming forward and prices will then be determined largely by the outlook for crops abroad, which is not as yet entirely encouraging. Wheat has reflected but little, the improved prospect, advancing from 85c to 90c for spot, regardless of the usual stories of injury, the current commercial and the department reports being apparently distrusted by the trade. The cotton crops look better and the prospect is reflected in a decline of a sixteenth in the spot price. The manufacturing works at the north are quite well employed, much more than usual during the vacation season and the demand for goods is somewhat improving. Abroad the state of the manufacturer does not encourage hopes of an extraordinary demand for the raw material, while the stocks held by millers are known to be unusually large. The south is increasing the manufacture rapidly and not entirely in place of northern mills. There is no disheartenment in other textile manufactures, and business is good and growing in silks, bagging, hemp, products and linen.

The manufacture of wool hesitates, although a distinctly better demand has appeared during the past ten days, because prices at which western wool is sold are too high for eastern markets and apparently too high for profitable manufacture. Sales for the week at the three chief markets have been only 3,200,000 pounds, of which 2,200,500 were domestic, against 14,120,500 last year, of which 6,989,500 were domestic and 6,119,350 pounds in the same week of 1892, of which 3,651,600 were domestic. The markets are all dull in spite of a fairly large demand for territory and Australian wool in blocks, but the manufacturers are very cautious in purchasing, although there is every evidence of a great consuming demand for goods which manufacturers with reasonably cheap material can supply. It is for them an open question whether they can meet it if they have to pay such prices as are asked by western holders.

It is not enough to dismiss the iron industry with the bold statement that it is using up more iron, even at the slowest point of the year than ever before. It is getting bigger domestic contracts for agricultural implements and car materials, and also for structural work than in any previous year, but especially for plates, the demand for which quite overruns the capacity of all the works and not mainly on government account. Nevertheless the demand has not pushed prices of material upward for this is the waiting and fighting period and the producers of pig and of billets have yet some problems to settle between themselves. Meanwhile no fall in prices appears, but a better demand for products with every expectation that within two weeks the producing capacity of the works will be much more fully employed than it has been for six months.

Failures for the week have been 229 in the United States, against 206 last year, and 17 in Canada, against 30 last year.

COMMISSIONER BOWERS' OFFER

Of a Hospital for Wounded Soldiers May be Accepted.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—Hon. George M. Bowers has offered Secretary Alger the use of the fish commission's station at Woodshall, Mass., as a hospital for the sick and wounded soldiers who may be brought back from the south.

Mr. Bowers believes he can provide there for four hundred soldiers without interfering with the work of the commission. The laboratory and station are on the vineyard sound twenty miles from Buzzard's Bay. It is understood Secretary Alger will accept the tender.

No Rest for Patriots.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—Senator Elkins will leave to-morrow for New York, to be absent several days. The senator has been a hard worker since Congress convened and feels the need of the absolute rest, which he cannot yet take. He expects to be in Washington a part of next week and at intervals during the coming summer.

"Senatorial Courtesy" That Don't Go.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 8.—It is understood two appointments of West Virginia postmasters will be made to-morrow, that of A. O. Petty, at Charleston, and L. D. Getzendanner, at Charlestown. Each of these appointments were sent to the senate several weeks ago, but failed of confirmation because of a protest in each case entered by Senator Faulkner. The objections were not sufficient to cause a withdrawal of the nominations, of course, and confirmation was prevented only by invoking "senatorial courtesy."

CAPT. EVANS STORY

Of the Tragic Denouement of Admiral Cervera's Attempted Escape

FROM THE HARBOR OF SANTIAGO De CUBA

A Graphic Description of the Contest Between the Steel Leviathans—How the "Iowa" Met the Enemy with "Fighting Bob" in His Element—His Ship Received Two Unpleasant Reminders of the Cristobal Colon's Prowess in the Shape of Two Shells—Gloucester's Plucky Fight—A Thrilling Recital.

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OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, July 7, Per the Associated Press Dispatch Boat Dauntless, via Port Antonio, Jamaica, July 8, by way of Kingston, July 8.—8:20 p. m.—The battleship Iowa was the first ship to see the Spanish fleet coming out of the harbor.

Somebody on the bridge shouted: "What's that black thing coming out of the harbor?"

A moment later the Iowa was at general quarters and the signal was hoisted that the enemy's ships were coming out. A gun was fired to attract the attention of the fleet at 9:33 a. m.

"Fighting Bob" Evans, the commander of the Iowa, was sitting in his cabin, talking to his son, a cadet on the Massachusetts, who, luckily, had been left behind in a picket launch when the Massachusetts went to Guantanamo to coal at dawn.

Captain Evans' account of the battle, as told in the cabin of the Iowa to a correspondent of the Associated Press, is intensely interesting. He said:

"At the time 'general quarters' was sounded, the engine bell rang full speed ahead and I put the helm to starboard and the Iowa crossed the bows of the Infanta Maria Teresa, the first ship out. As the Spanish admiral swung to the westward, the 12-inch shells from the forward turret of the Iowa seemed to strike him fair in the bow and the fight was a spectacle.

"As the squadron came out in column, the ships beautifully spaced as to distance and gradually increasing their speed to thirteen knots it was superb.

"The Iowa, from this moment kept up a steady fire from her heavy guns, heading all the time to keep the Infanta Maria Teresa on her starboard bow and hoping to ram one of the leading ships.

"In the meandime the Oregon, Indiana, Brooklyn and Texas were doing excellent work with their heavy guns.

"In a very short space of time the enemy's ships were all clear of the harbor mouth and it became evidently impossible for the Iowa to ram either the first or the second ship on account of their speed.

In a Torrent of Shells.

"The range at this time was 2,000 yards from the leading ship. The Iowa's helm was immediately put hard to the starboard and the entire starboard boardside was poured into the Infanta Maria Teresa. The helm was then quickly shifted to port and the ship went across the stern of the Teresa in an effort to head off the Oquendo. All the time the engines were driving at full speed ahead. A perfect torrent of shells from the enemy passed over the smokestack and superstucture of the ship, but none struck her.

"The Cristobal Colon, being much faster than the rest of the Spanish ships, passed rapidly to the front in an effort to escape. In passing the Iowa the Colon placed two six-inch shells fairly in our starboard bow. One passed through the cofferdam and dispensary, wrecking the latter and bursting on the berth deck, doing considerable damage. The other passed through the side at the water line within the cofferdam, where it still remains.

"As it was now obviously impossible to ram any of the Spanish ships on account of their superior speed, the Iowa's helm was put to the starboard and she ran on a course parallel with the enemy. Being then abreast of the Almirante Oquendo at a distance of 1,100 yards, the Iowa's entire battery, including the rapid fire guns, was opened on Oquendo. The punishment was terrific. Many twelve and eight inch shells were seen to explode inside of her and smoke came out through her hatches.

Iowa's Good Aim.

Two twelve-inch shells from the Iowa pierced the Almirante Oquendo at the same moment, one forward and the other aft. The Oquendo seemed to stop her engine for a moment and lost headway, but she immediately resumed her speed and gradually drew ahead of the Iowa and came under the terrific fire of the Oregon and Texas.

"At this moment the alarm of 'torpedo boats' was sounded and two torpedo boat destroyers were discovered in the starboard quarter at a distance of 4,000 yards. Fire was at once opened on them with the after battery and a twelve-inch shell cut the stern of one destroyer squarely off. As the shell struck a small torpedo boat fired back at the battleship, sending a shell within a few feet of my head. I said to executive officer Rogers 'that little chap has got a lot of cheek.' Rogers shouted back 'she shoots very well all the same.'

"Well up among the advancing cruisers, spitting shots at one and then another, was the little Gloucester, shooting first at a cruiser and then at a torpedo boat and hitting a head wherever she saw it. The marvel was that she was not destroyed by the rain of shells. In the meantime the Vizcaya was slowly drawing abeam of the Iowa and for the space of fifteen minutes it was give and take between the two ships. The Vizcaya fired rapidly, but wildly, not one shot taking effect on the Iowa, while the shells from the Iowa were tearing great rents in the sides of the Vizcaya. As the latter passed ahead of the Iowa she came under the murderous fire of the Oregon.

Pounded Them Unmercifully.

At this time the Infanta Maria Teresa and the Almirante Oquendo, leading the enemy's column, were seen to be heading for the beach and in flames. The Texas, Oregon and Iowa pounded them unmercifully. They ceased to reply to the fire and in a few moments the Spanish cruisers were a mass of flames and on the rocks with their colors down, the Teresa flying a white flag at the fore.

The crews of the enemy's ships stripped themselves and began jumping overboard, and one of the smaller magazines began to explode.

"Meantime the Brooklyn and the Christobal Colon were exchanging compliments in tively fashion, at apparently long range, and the Oregon with her locomotive speed was hanging well on the Colon also paying attention to the Viscaya. The Teresa and the Oquendo were in flames on the beach just twenty minutes after the first shot was fired. Fifty minutes after the first shot was fired the Viscaya put her helm to port, with a great burst of flame from the fifteen part of the ship and headed slowly for the rocks at Acoeraderos, where she found her last resting place.

Rescued the Spaniards.

"As it was apparent that the Iowa could not possibly catch the Cristobal Colon and that the Oregon and Brooklyn undoubtedly would, and as the fast New York was also on her trail, I decided that the calls of humanity should be answered and attention given to the twelve of fifteen hundred Spanish officers and men who had struck their colors to the American squadron. I therefore headed for the wreck of the Viscaya now burning furiously fore and aft. When I was in as far as the depth of water would admit, I lowered all my boats and sent them at once to the assistance of the unfortunate men who were being drowned by dozens or roasted on the decks. I soon discovered that the insurgent Cubans from the shore were shooting on men who were struggling in the water, after having surrendered to us. I immediately put a stop to this, but I could not put a stop to the mutilation of many bodies by the sharks inside the reefs.

"These creatures had become excited by the blood from the wounded mixing in the water.

"My boats crew worked manfully and succeeded in saving many of the wounded from the burning ships."

COLWELL NOT GUILTY.

A Big Fuss Stirred Up Over a Very Little Matter.

LONDON, July 8.—The publication of the telegram alleged to have come from Lieutenant Colwell, the United States naval attache here and said to have been addressed to the navy department at Washington, in which the naval attache was placed in the position of giving important information from Madrid to the authorities at Washington, has caused a sensation among the diplomats here, who deem it remarkable that a naval attache should communicate to his government matters considered as wholly belonging to the domain of diplomatic representatives, and it is freely predicted that if the reports of Lieutenant Colwell's alleged activity in securing information from Spain can be proved, the Spanish ambassador will be instructed to protest against his remaining here on the same grounds as the American protests against Senor DuBosc and Lieutenant Carranza, formerly of the Spanish legation at Washington, remaining in Montreal.

The London reports concerning Lieutenant Colwell are based on misapprehension arising out of erroneous published reports that it was Colwell who gave the United States government information that Spain would sue for peace this week. The government, as stated by the Associated Press, did receive such information, but the inference subsequently drawn by certain newspapers that Colwell sent the dispatch was not warranted.

SIGHTS OF MISERY

To be Seen on the Streets of Havana—Deplorable Situation.

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KINGSTON, Jamaica, July 8.—6 p. m.—The British cruiser Talbot, which left Havana on Thursday, July 5, arrived at Port Royal to-day with twenty-three passengers, among them Sir Alexander Gollan, British consul general at Havana, and Mr. Higgins, of the British consulate there, both on leave, which is given as the only explanation of their departure. Mr. Jerome has been left in charge of British affairs in Havana.

Mr. Higgins said: "The city of Havana is quiet, and there are no new complications. The well to do inhabitants are subsisting tolerably, but the poor are dying of starvation in the streets. There are many sights of terrible misery. The barracks are filled with starving women.

"The soldiers are fairly well fed. General Pando has been sending troops into the interior, it is said, enroute for Santiago, but I do not see how they will get there.

"The blockade is maintained and vessels are frequently turned back. Everybody is anxious for the conclusion of the war, though the soldiers wish to fight and all the officials are resolute. There is no flour in Havana and no fresh meat, while hams are scarce."

Sir Alexander Gollan declined to say anything on the condition of things at Havana. The other passengers of the Talbot are for the most part female refugees.

FLOODS HINDERING

The Advance of Troops at Manila—German Ship Leaves.

CAVITE, Philippine Islands, via HONG KONG, July 8.—Floods in the country districts are hindering the advance of the American troops.