

THE FIRST CONFLICT.

A Battle Reported Off Florida Coast.

RUNNING SEA FIGHT

A Spanish Warship Pursued by a United States Monitor.

FIRING THE FIRST SHOT.

The Guns of the Virginia-Built Nashville

SOUNDED THE TOCSIN OF WAR.

She Captured the Spanish Steamer

Buena Ventura Loaded With Lumber—The North Atlantic Squadron Sailed for Cuba Early

Yesterday Morning and

Established a Block-

ade—Gen. Wood-

ford's Train

Stoned.

ACKSONVILLE, FLA., April 22.—

According to private dispatches received by

the Times Union and Citizen to-night, the

first naval battle of the war took place

opposite Boynton, about twenty-five miles

south of Palm Beach, at 2:05 o'clock this

morning.

George Lyman, a reliable man, and

others, who were fishing on Lake Worth,

which is separated from the ocean by a

narrow strip of land, heard heavy firing

and ran to the beach. They reported to

the railroad agent and postmaster at Lan-

tana that a United States monitor was

furiously chasing and firing upon a

Spanish man-of-war or gunboat, convey-

ing a coal or transport ship. The Span-

iard replied shot for shot. All the ships

were travelling with a home in their

teeth. The men say they watched the

battle for an hour, or until only the

smoke from the funnels was visible on

the southern horizon, in which direction

they were travelling.

HEAVY RUNNING FIRE.

A special dispatch to the Times Union

and Citizen from Lantana says:

"An eye witness has just arrived from

Boynton, and reports a supposed trans-

port vessel, southward bound, guarded

by a man-of-war, pursued by a monitor,

keeping up a heavy running fire."

This dispatch was dated at 2:05 o'clock

this morning.

WEST PALM BEACH, FLA., April 22.—

Much interest was manifested here to-

day over the maneuvering of strange-

looking vessels. Two torpedo boats passed

south-early this morning, the other

this afternoon. Three vessels, supposedly

belonging to the mosquito fleet, after

some maneuvering off Palm Beach pier,

proceeded shortly northward, and tow-

ing a very large and peculiarly shaped

vessel also passed south.

SPANISH STEAMER CAPTURED.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 22.—The

cruiser Nashville has captured the Spanish

steamer Buena Ventura for Rotterdam,

having on board a cargo of lumber. She

was on her way from the coast of Texas.

The Nashville towed her prize into the

harbor at 11 o'clock this morning. The

news of the capture of the Spaniards set

the people of Key West frantic with en-

and Captain Lucaraga, in command of her, was astounded. He said he did not know that war had been declared; but when he was informed of the state of affairs he shrugged his shoulders and accepted the situation philosophically.

CREW PHILOSOPHICAL.

The Nashville has taken on stores and will return to the fleet carrying Ensign Carriger, who will be relieved by Ensign Carleton of the Shaw. A body of marines is pacing the deck of the Spaniard and her crew of twenty-eight are lounging about the decks in nonchalant fashion. Not a man is in irons. According to prize laws, Captain Maynard will turn the prisoners of war over to the United States District Attorney, who will decide the question of their disposition.

The monitor Puritan is taking on coal and water and will join the fleet to-night. It is stated on excellent authority that the destination of the fleet is Matanzas. On board the flagship is Captain Aranguren, brother of the late Brigadier-General Nestor Aranguren. He will pilot the fleet to Matanzas. The Cuban pilots will be on duty at night after 10 o'clock. The Detroit sailed to join the fleet this afternoon. It is believed that one or two ships will be left, at least temporarily here.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 22.—Com- mander Lyons, of the Dolphin, has delivered to United States District Attorney Stripping, the papers of the Buena Ventura captured by the Nashville. He will pilot the ship to the usual way. The unfortunate merchantman is still lying in the harbor. Her captain was allowed to remain on board; but the crew of twenty-eight were taken to the Dolphin, and made to assist in the work of coaling.

The gunboat Nashville steamed out of the harbor late this afternoon, having achieved the first victory of the war. Although a hoodlum crew, she had gone about twenty miles when the Dolphin signalled her to return. She steamed back and received orders, the nature of which was not divulged, and put to sea again finally to join the fleet, and in- cluding to pick up any other vagrant ship of the enemy that she happens to come within range of.

The cruiser Marblehead, the monitor Puritan, the Albatross and the Mangrove sailed this morning to join the fleet. The only ships of the squadron remaining here are the Dolphin, the Terror and the Helena, all of which are likely to move within a few hours.

It is reported this evening that the Buena Ventura ran aground on a reef about a mile out and is leaking. Tugs went to her assistance and pulled her off. Considerable mystery surrounds the affair.

SAILED FOR KEY WEST.

KEY WEST, FLA., April 22.—The North Atlantic Squadron, comprising the monitors Terror and Puritan and the smaller cruisers, sailed from Key West at 5:45 o'clock this morning, headed for the Florida Straits. Beside the two monitors, the ships left behind are the cruisers Detroit and Marblehead, gunboat Helena, dis- patch boat Dolphin, cable repair boat Mangrove.

The Dauntless, dispatch boat of the Associated Press, left here with the fleet. The departure of the fleet was not so imposing as had been anticipated. On the contrary, there was something of a scrambling going away. When all was ready the flagship swung round and came well into the harbor, signalling to the other ships about to sail. After receiving responses she turned and headed for the open sea with the Iowa and the Indiana closely in her rear. The Indiana, coming at the Dry Tortugas, but was called for and at midnight she joined her two sister ships in the anchorage held by the three while in the harbor. The gunboat Machias lay nearest to the three big warships, and was first to swing her stern to the sea. She was followed by the Newport, which also lay outside. Of the fleet lying close to the shore the Amphitrite was the leader. She lumbered along after the Machias, her immense guns stretching above her low foreboard. She was the first of the monitors to join the warlike procession, looking the deadly instrument she is. Then came the Nashville, her three smoke stacks dining gulping her from the others, with the gunboat Wilmington pumping alongside.

The Casline, which was next in line, departed with the other members of the fleet. She was followed by the other ships of the fleet. The boats of the fleet lying close to the shore the Amphitrite was the leader. She lumbered along after the Machias, her immense guns stretching above her low foreboard. She was the first of the monitors to join the warlike procession, looking the deadly instrument she is. Then came the Nashville, her three smoke stacks dining gulping her from the others, with the gunboat Wilmington pumping alongside.

SWIFT TORPEDO BOATS.

The torpedo boats did not start until 6 o'clock when most of the line was under way, but as if to exhibit their capabilities they darted ahead and were lost from sight in the forward group. The boats of the Dupont, Porter, Winslow, left, Ericsson and Cushing. The monitors Puritan and Terror lay side by side, coaling from a barge which was between them. The rest of the fleet followed in a line, the monitors observing the naval pageant. It is believed the two monitors are to follow the rest of the squadron.

Following the floating forts was the fleet of new and old dispatch boats, numbering about twenty. Cuban pilots accompanied the fleet.

Juan Santo was on board the New York. Pedro Hernandez was aboard the Cincinnati and Felipe Losa was the pilot of the Indiana.

These three men are experts in their business. They know the Cuban coast thoroughly and have successfully landed filibustering expeditions.

CUBAN PORTS BLOCKADED

WASHINGTON, April 22.—The following proclamation in regard to the blockade of Cuba was issued at the State Department this afternoon at 2:40 o'clock:

By the President of the United States—A Proclamation:

Whereas, by a joint resolution passed by the Congress and approved April 20, 1898, and communicated to the Government of Spain, it was demanded that said government at once relinquish its authority and government in the Island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters; and the President of the United States was directed and empowered to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States, and to call into the actual service of the United States the militia of the several States to such an extent as might be necessary to carry said resolutions into effect; and

A BLOCKADE NECESSARY.

Whereas, in carrying into effect said resolution, the President of the United States deems it necessary to set on foot and maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including all ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos, on the south coast of Cuba;

Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, in order to enforce the said resolution, do hereby declare and proclaim that the United States of America have instituted and will maintain a blockade of the north coast of Cuba, including ports on said coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and the port of Cienfuegos on the south coast of Cuba,

aforsaid, in pursuance of the laws of the United States and of nations, applicable to such cases.

An efficient force will be posted so as to prevent the entrance and exit of vessels from the ports aforesaid. Any neutral vessel approaching any of said ports, or attempting to leave the same, without notice or knowledge of the establishment of such blockade, will be duly warned by the commander of the blockading forces, who will endorse on her register the fact and the date of such warning where such endorsement was made, and if the same vessel shall again attempt to enter any blockaded port she will be captured and sent to the nearest convenient port for such proceedings against her and her cargo as prize may be deemed advisable.

THIRTY DAYS' GRACE.

Neutral vessels lying in any of said ports at the time of the establishment of such blockade will be allowed thirty days to issue therefrom.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, the 22d day of April, A. D. 1898, and of the independence of the United States the one hundred and twenty-second.

WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

By the President.

JOHN SHERMAN, Secretary of State.

iron, etc., which are subservient to war-like use and which are destined for use of the enemy. They are contraband of war, according to occasion and as to the character, shipment and destination. Every such case depends on its own facts.

The third class includes articles not suited to warlike use—such as church service and musical instruments, household wares and goods and other such like articles including many that are purely mercantile in character. No article of merchandise is contraband unless transported beyond the territorial waters and jurisdiction of another neutral State, or unless destined for an enemy's use or for an enemy's ship upon the high seas, which belligerent ships are permitted to police in search of an enemy's ships and contraband of war.

No final and exhaustive definition of contraband articles can be given. They are changing with the progress of inventions. Some articles were formerly contraband which now are not, and the converse is true. Neither belligerent can treat goods as contraband in violation of his treaty stipulations with a neutral power. Any one desiring to ship goods to a foreign port in neutral vessels would profitably consult any providing treaties between his and the government of that port.

RIGHTS OF CAPTURE.

The belligerent right of capture as against a neutral exists only either in case of contraband of war or of enemy's goods abroad, or of a violation of an effective blockade and in other analogous cases where the conduct of the neutral justifies the belligerent in treating his property as enemy property. If Spain adheres to the "free ships, free goods" as this government proposes to do only contraband goods are subject to capture in such ships.

Inquiry at the Navy Department as to the story that our government had announced for the seizure of the Hawaiian Islands and the Hawaiian Islands, but the Hawaiian Islands in Hawaii failed to secure any positive statement on the subject.

There is good authority for believing that the story is exaggerated and all that has been done is to provide for the establishment of a coaling base there.

The naval officials feel every confidence in the ability of the Oregon and the Marblehead not only to protect themselves from the Spanish gunboat Tamoerico, but to destroy that craft if she ever comes within range.

LIMITATION OF THE BLOCKADE.

The limitation of the blockade in Cuba to a certain part of the island was not officially explained but one plausible reason advanced for the government's action was that by refraining from establishing a blockade over the eastern portion of the island now understood to be practical in the control of the insurgents the ports will be left open for them to freely receive all needed supplies and munitions of war.

A formal order was issued by the War Department increasing the equipment of six batteries of artillery to six guns, six caissons, one combined force and battery wagon, and one hundred horses. The enforcement of this order will require 500 additional horses which the quartermaster's department will purchase in Tennessee.

For purposes of transporting the army to Cuba the quartermaster's office has under consideration the chartering of ships having the carrying capacity of 500 men. No charters have, however, been closed.

In the Engineer and Ordnance Bureau work was being rushed with the greatest possible speed toward the completion of defense projects and the installation of the big guns. All the available matter in the way of fortifications is being attended to and the department is utilizing everything at their disposal.

SWANSON WAS ELECTED.

A Majority of the Elections Committee Affirm This Fact.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 22.—Special.—The three Democratic members of Elections Committee No. 2, signed a report in the Brown-Swanson case in which they find that Swanson was elected by 233 votes. Two Republicans, members of the committee, also signed a report finding that Swanson was elected by 123 votes.

This gives Swanson a majority of the committee and his friends think his victory in the House is assured. Swanson says he can count a majority of something like fifty members.

In the Wise-Young contest, Young's friends are more hopeful to-day than they have been for some time past.

Wise's friends are equally hopeful.

DON CARLOS WAS HERE.

The Pretender to the Spanish Throne Visited Richmond.

Don Carlos, the pretender to the throne of Spain, visited Richmond about 1873. There are many citizens who will recall him as a dashing young fellow.

He stopped at the Exchange Hotel with his attendants and received much attention during his stay here.

A FATAL DUEL.

Young Men Fight With Pistols and One is Killed.

BRISTOL, TENN., April 22.—Special.—A murder is reported from near Magnolia City, N. C. George Weatherly and George Hervey, young men, fought a duel with pistols. Weatherly was killed.

THE GUNBOAT NASHVILLE.

THE Nashville is one of the newest gunboats of the American navy. It was dropped from the ways at Newport News into the water less than two years ago, and it is the very expression of the modern gunboat. The men who put the Nashville together were the happiest shipbuilders in the whole world when the gunboat Nashville was launched. When she made her trial trip she steamed three knots the hour over and above the government requirements. The new gunboat is a most gorgeous piece of machinery and can do terrible damage when pressed into service. Her external appearance in no wise indicates her awful power, and in actual contact she could destroy a ship much larger than herself.

SHE FIRED THE FIRST SHOT IN THE WAR WITH SPAIN.

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WHAT IS CONTRABAND.

"Contraband of war" is determined according to the law of nations whether merchandise is contraband of war, it is classified: 1. Absolute contraband. 2. Occasional or conditional contraband. 3. Goods not contraband.

The first class includes all goods of an essentially warlike character.

The second class includes provisions, naval stores, coal, horses, certain kinds of machinery, certain forms of steel,

THE VIRGINIANS WHO WILL FIGHT.

Only Those Who Recently Volunteered

UNDER ORDER NO. 8.

Colonels James C. Baker and Greenville Gaines to Command.

COMPANY A OF THE BLUES TO GO

No Field Officers from This City Have Volunteered and None Will Be Called Upon Today When the Call Will Be Issued—The Stuart Horse Guards Disbanded But May Reorganize.

NO FIELD OFFICERS FROM THIS CITY HAVE VOLUNTEERED AND NONE WILL BE CALLED UPON TODAY WHEN THE CALL WILL BE ISSUED—THE STUART HORSE GUARDS DISBANDED BUT MAY REORGANIZE.

It is now a settled fact that the only military organizations who will be ordered out, when the President of the United States calls for Virginia's share of volunteers this morning will be those that have in compliance with General Order No. 8, volunteered to go anywhere, when called upon, outside of the United States. It is admitted that the oath taken by the volunteers when they first joined the militia, does not bind them in this instance, and they had, therefore, to make the additional declaration required by General Order No. 8.

This view is not only that of the highest military authorities in this State, but it has been shared by those in authority in every other State of the Union, where similar declarations were required and men in the various organizations of the State, Virginia will have to supply two regiments of twelve companies each, consisting of eighty-four non-commissioned officers and privates. Each company will be in charge of three commissioned officers.

The two colored regiments of the State, having volunteered their services are Colonel James C. Baker, of the Second Regiment, whose headquarters are at Woodstock, and Colonel Greenville Gaines, of the Third Regiment, whose headquarters are at Culpeper. Their regiments will, of course, have to be recruited up to the required strength and any companies from other sections of this State will be attached to either of these two regiments.

Of this city Company A of the Blues' Battalion, being volunteered by a large majority, will be one of these companies, but at the close of the war the company will, of course, be returned to the Blues' Battalion.

According to the last annual report of the Adjutant-General, the Second Regiment, consisting of eight companies, had at the last annual inspection a strength of 21 officers and 37 men, while the Third Regiment, consisting of nine companies, had 11 officers and 45 men.

Under the call of the President, each one of these two regiments will have twelve companies of 84 men each, or a total of 1,008 men, making Virginia have 12,000 men outside of the commissioned officers.

TROOPERS DISBANDED.

In accordance with an order issued yesterday morning, the Stuart Horse Guard, Troop A, cavalry, assembled at their headquarters, Seventh street last evening and to be inspected for the purpose of being disbanded. Colonel Jo Lane Stern, the assistant inspector general, was present to perform this unpleasant duty. The men were called to order by Lieut. tenant C. H. Baker, who has been in command of the troop since Captain E. J. Euker resigned.

The following members answered to the roll call: First Lieutenant C. H. Euker, Second Lieutenant O. E. Spott, Sergeant George L. Powers, W. C. Meyer, C. D. Winefield, Corporals August Dix, C. R. Haase, M. L. Houchins, Fritz Will.

(Continued on Second Page.)

SPAIN CALLS ON HER RESERVES.

Thirty Thousand Men Ordered Out.

PATRIOTISM REIGNS.

The Sagasta Ministry to Be Continued in Office.

NO CRISIS IN THE CABINET.

The Havana Colonial Government Issues a Manifesto Against the Intervention of the United States. Blanco Revokes His Decree Granting Pardon to Insurgents.

MADRID, April 22.—A M.—A royal

decree has been gazetted calling out 30,000 men of the annual reserves of 1897.

All persons who have been consulted by the Queen Regent have advised a continuance of the Sagasta Ministry. It is probably, however, that Admiral Bermejo, the Minister of Marine, will insist upon resigning in order to take command of a squadron.

Patriotic enthusiasm reigns throughout Madrid and the province. The Queen Regent had a long conference to-day with General Weyler and the foreign diplomats had frequent conferences with Senor Guillon, the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

An immense crowd witnessed the military parade in front of the Palace this afternoon and intense enthusiasm was displayed when the young King appeared on the balcony.

The Premier on leaving the Palace this afternoon declared there was absolutely no foundation for the rumors of a cabinet crisis.

The Premier announced to-day that the Senate will meet tomorrow and the Chamber will meet to-morrow.

The Liberal to-day recalls the blockade of Carthage when, it says, 10,000 Spanish repulsed a British fleet with 11,000 men on board.

SUB-DIVIDE OUR SQUADRON. LONDON, April 22.—The Madrid correspondent of the Daily Mail, telegraphing Friday, says: The patriotic demonstrations were renewed to-day. On the return of the guards from the palace the crowd procured a Spanish flag and hoisted it in the streets, cheering the soldiers and eventually taking up a position in front of the Military Club. There were no disorders.

"In the opinion of Admiral Beranger, the Spanish torpedo destroyers ought to have arrived in Cuban waters days ago and to have started to attack the American squadron of the Tortugas. He thinks the Spanish vessels ought to go detached as much as possible, in order to subdivide the American squadron, and in no event ought they to be obliged to fight forces much superior."

CONDEMNNS INTERVENTION.

HAVANA, April 22.—The Colonial Government has published a manifesto, protesting against the intervention of the United States in the present crisis, and establishment of the new regime, and political liberty, and when Cuba was going to elect a colonial parliament replacing Spain's sovereignty in Cuba with autonomy.

The manifesto intimates that it is the intention of the United States to annex Cuba.

Captain-General Blanco has published a decree confirming his previous decree and declaring the island to be in a state of war. He also declared his former decree granting pardon to insurgents and please under martial law all those who are guilty of treason, espionage, crimes against peace or against the independence of the nation, seditious revolts, attacks against the form of the government or against those who disturb public order.

Spanish patriotic sentiment is now stirred up and the Spaniards are desirous of engaging in the first naval combat.

TAKE UP ARMS.

All the morning papers contain patriotic editorials and articles urging the inhabitants to "take up arms against the in-

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THOUSANDS WILL FIGHT.

A Great Army to Take Havana.

UNCLE SAM'S PART.

He Will Furnish About 90,000 Troops for Cuba.

MILES TO BE IN COMMAND.

General Lee to Have a Division.

VIRGINIA WILL BE ON HAND.

This State Will Furnish Troops for the Island Campaign—Thin Clothing and Straw Hats Required—Lee Goes to Washington Tomorrow—His Staff Appointments—Dr. Carmichael will Remain Here.

What Captain Sampson is Doing.

General Fitzhugh Lee will return to Washington to-morrow unless sooner recalled by the War Department.

He is going to Cuba to fight if he has to go as a lieutenant, but it is understood at Washington that the President will make him a Major-General in charge of a corps or division of State militia.

General Lee will be found leading the army into Havana.

The General spent the day yesterday at his residence, with the exception of a brief visit to some friends at the Jefferson Hotel. He was at work replying to letters until late at night.

MUST BE LIGHTLY CLOTHED. The General sent a telegram to the War Department advising that the lightest possible clothing be provided for the soldiers who go to Cuba. The uniform he suggests would consist of blue pants made of cotton or jeans; shirt of some similar material; light canvas shoes, belt and straw hat. It is of the utmost importance that the head be kept cool in that hot climate and the wearing of caps or felt hats is out of the question.

General Lee's two years' experience in Cuba has taught him that light headgear is, therefore, a very important part of the dress.

THE CUBAN ARMY.

It is understood that it is the purpose of the government to send to Cuba 20,000 regulars and from 60,000 to 70,000 volunteer militia. Each State will have to furnish some of the soldiers for campaign on the island.

The mobilizing of the militia will begin early next week. To get this great army in shape, properly clad for the warm climate of Cuba and to transport it to the island will, of course, require some little time. Meantime, the