The Times.

Forecast for Friday:
Virginia—Showers; light to fresh northeasterly winds.
North Carolina and South Carolina—Rain; fresh to brisk northeasterly winds.

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THE COMMISSION READY TO LEAVE.

They Have Received Explicit Instructions.

ARE NOT MOUTHPIECES

They Will Be Allowed a Certain Amount of Latitude,

THEY ARE MEN TO BE TRUSTED.

Were Selected After Careful Consideration—They Expect to Get Much Valuable Information from General Merritt and from Dewey—They Will Leave New York To-Morrow

WASHINGTON, September 15.—The cabinet met in special session at three o'clock this afternoon and adjourned at four. All of the members were present except Secretary Alger who is not in the city. All united in the statement, made after the meeting, that they had agreed to say nothing more of the result of the deliberations than that the peace commissioners had been fully instructed.

Of the nature of these instructions they conveyed no intimation. Each one pointed out that to do so would be extremely impolitic and would amount to arming the Spanish commissioners in advance. The peace commissioners who were approached on the subject made a similar response thus closing all official avenues of information.

FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTIONS.

It is not to be understood that the commissioners go under ironclad and unchangeable instructions at all points for there is a certain amount of flexibility in the instructions else, as one of the cabinet members put it, the president might just as well reduced his wishes to paper in the form of an ultimatum and have sent that to Paris by a messenger. The peace commissioners are in no sense mere mouthpieces, but having chosen with the greatest care and consideration five men in whom he puts the most implicit confidence, the president feels that they are to be trusted with the interests of the United States.

It is not expected that they will have a free rein in the larger questions of policy, but with ample opportunities for consultations by cable and otherwise, there is no reason why the commissioners should not be able to carry out the desires of the administration, and at the same time have the opportunity to somewhat shape those desires by conveying information they may acquire.

VALUABLE ASSISTANCE.

For instance, it is expected that at Paris the commissioners will meet General Merritt, fresh from Manila, and in addition they will there have the benefit of a special report from Admiral Dewey. These will be of the greatest value, for the commissioners are not acquainted with the Philippines question in detail, and even the information that is to be acquired from the Spanish Peace Commissioners is not to be despised when it takes such an official form that it can be relied upon as to accuracy.

All the arrangements have been completed for the departure of the commission and its staff. Most of the party will leave Washington at 4 o'clock to-morrow afternoon for New York, but circumstances may detain some of the commissioners until the midnight train.

WILL SAIL TO-MORROW.

The Campania sails at 2 P. M. Saturday, and explicit instructions have been given all the members of the party as to being on hand at that time. Special baggage tags have been printed for the belongings of the members, and a small paper paster, showing red and blue bars crossed on a white background gives a handy way of making a "red, white and blue" identification of the personal and general luggage of the pary.

A number of stout cedar chests have been made to carry the books, pamphlets, typewritten papers, etc., forming a part of the American case. The chests like a shallow steamer trunk, so that they may be shoved under the berths, and thus be available on the passage over instead of going with the baggage in the hold of the steamer. This will permit considerable work on the trip and it is expected that the commissioners will hold meetings on ship board. The party will go direct from Liverpool to London, and there stop for a day's rest, then proceed to Paris by the way of Dover and Calais.

A FAREWELL DINNER.

Members of the Spanish-American Commission Dine at the White House.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—President McKinley gave a dinner at the White House to-night to the members of the Spanish-American Peace Commission who are now in the city. Invited to meet them were the members of the Cabinet now here and a few other officials, most of whom at various times have been called in consultation about questions relating to the war. While the dinner was intended as a social courtesy to the departing commissioners, it gave an opportunity for a more or less informal discussion of the work to be undertaken by them.

MUST MEET OUR DEMANDS.

The Commissioners Will Not Permit Any Deviation From Them.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—The State Department to-night gave out the following statement concerning the discussion between the members of the Cabinet and the Peace Commission to-day:

"The members of the Peace Commission, with the exception of Senator Gray, whose absence was due to his inability to withdraw as counsel in a case in which he was engaged some time before his appointment as one of the peace commissioners, have spent the greater part of yesterday and to-day in a free discussion of the duties with the discharge of which they have been entrusted by the President. Senator Gray is expected during the evening and before sailing will have a full conference with the President and his associates. While for obvious reasons it was determined that the nature of the instructions as to the negotiation about to be entered upon should, for the present, be kept secret and made known only after definite results shall have been reached, it is possible to state authoritatively that the commission goes to Paris fully prepared to follow a course of action marked out for it as the result of the consultations of the last two days.

At the very outset it would be made clear to the Spanish commissioners that as in the case of the preliminary protocol there can be no deviation from or modification of the demands made by the United States.

The decision arrived at by the President after a full consultation with the members of the commission subsequently received the cordial and unanimous approval of the Cabinet at a meeting held this afternoon.

As previously announced the commission sails from New York on the Campania at 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon.

DEAD EMPRESS' REMAINS.

Are Borne to the Royal Chapel in Vienna With Imposing Ceremony.

VIENNA, Sept. 15.—The funeral train bearing the body of the late Empress Elizabeth arrived at 10 o'clock this morning. Prince Von Liechtenstein, the chief court marshall, the officers of the general staff and a military guard of honor, were awaiting at the railway station, which was heavily draped with crepe. The clergy having blessed the remains, the procession started for the Hofburg. The whole route was lined with troops, and immense crowds, bareheaded, stood silently watching. The soldiers presented arms as the procession passed. The streets were imposingly decorated. On reaching the Hofburg the remains were transferred to the chapel. Emperor Francis Joseph, with the principal mourners, had driven from Schonbrunn to the chapel to attend the ceremony of blessing the body.

As the coffin was borne to the chapel the choir chanted the "Miserere." After the benediction all departed except the Emperor and the relatives who remained alone with the beloved dead until shortly before midnight, when they returned to Schonbrunn.

Among the wreaths the one from President McKinley attracts much attention. It has the Stars and Stripes intertwined and bears the inscription: "From the President of the United States, a tribute of heartfelt sympathy to the memory of a noble and gracious lady." All the celebrations in connection with the jubilee of Emperor Francis have been abandoned.

THE ASSASSIN.

He Appears Undaunted Before the Court—Two Important Arrests.

GENEVA, Sept. 15.—The assassin of the Empress of Austria appeared to-day before the Corutna Chamber. He entered the court smiling, saluted the public with a wave of his hand and asked the president of the tribunal in good French to allow him an interpreter. The examination appeared to show a plot involving other Italian anarchists.

LAUZANNE, SWITZERLAND, Sept. 15.—Two important arrests have been made here in connection with the assination on Saturday last of the Empress of Austria.

GENERAL OTIS' REPORT.

He Says the Situation in Manila is Much More Satisfactory.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—General Otis to-day cabled the War Department as follows:

Manila, Sept. 15.

"Affairs much more satisfactory. Demands for withdrawal insurgent forces compiled with and all withdrawn, or withdrawing to-day, except small forces in outlying districts, which are not obeying insurgent leader Aguinaldo's requests few days in which to withdraw them by detachments and punish their commanding officers. Over two thousand already withdrawn. No concessions granted insurgents, but strict compliance with demands of eighth instant required. General good feeling prevailing. Manila quiet and business progressing favorably. No difficulty anticipated. Have been compelled to confine Spanish prisoners temporarily within limits of walled city.

"OTIS,
Commanding."

GENERAL MILES SICK.

He is Confined to His Bed With an Attack of Malarial Fever.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—General Miles is confined to his bed with a touch of fever resulting in part from the work and exposure of his recent campaigns. The attack causes no apprehension to the General's friends. It is said to be of a malarial character, like much of the fever developed after exposure in Southern latitudes.

MISS WINNIE DAVIS.

The Prospects for Her Rapid Recovery to Health are Now Very Good.

NARRANGANSETT PIER, R. I., Sept. 15.—Miss Winnie Davis is much improved to-day, and the prospects are good for her rapid recovery to health. The hotel in which she is a guest closed for the season to-day, but Miss Davis and her mother and the attendants will remain until it is safe to remove the patient.

BIDS FOR THE TORPEDO BOATS.

It is Thought That Richmond Will Undoubtedly Get Some of Them.

Spain's Modus Vivendi.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 15.—Special. Secretary Long has had the matter of awarding contracts for the construction of the new torpedo boats and destroyers, under advisement for several days, but no decision has yet been made public. Hon. Connolly F. Trigg to-day presented the Secretary a lengthy "brief," setting forth the claims of W. R. Trigg & Co., and answering the arguments of those who are trying to wrest these contracts from the Richmond concern. Among the attorneys thus engaged is ex-Secretary Herbert.

MR. TRIGG'S ARGUMENT.

In presenting the brief, Mr. Trigg orally outlined the main points set forth. No one said positively what the decision would be, but Secretary Long expressed gratification that the South was coming forward with bids for this kind of work.

Mr. W. R. Trigg is being congratulated on all sides, so firm is the conviction that he will get some of the boats. A prominent shipbuilder was among these, and he told Mr. Trigg that there would be "plenty of this work for all of us."

The decision of the Secretary of the Navy will probably be made public in a few days. Judge-Advocate Lemley, who is the legal adviser of the Secretary, has the brief in hand now.

Representative Lamb called at the War Department to-day to try to secure the discharge of a number of men of the Fourth Virginia Regiment, but found that except in cases of urgent necessity, applications for discharge must pass through the regular military routine.

An order has been issued by the War Department, naming one of the two new batteries at Charleston, S. C., Fort Capron, in honor of Allyn Capron, the brave

(Continued on Second Page.)

LIEUT. F. M. WOON DIES SUDDENLY.

He Succumbs to Typhoid Fever.

A POPULAR OFFICER.

Born and Reared in England, But Came to America When a Youth.

TAKEN ILL IN JACKSONVILLE.

Where He Went as a Volunteer for the War With Spain—His Father Was a Colonel in the British Army, in Which Service Two Brothers Now Are—Studied Law at the University.

First Lieutenant Frank Maxwell Woon, of Company M, Second Virginia Regiment, died at Old Dominion Hospital about 6:30 o'clock yesterday evening.

His friends were greatly shocked by the news of his death. He had been apparently improving rapidly and was bright and cheerfully all day yesterday. He was a victim of typhoid fever. Soon after 6 o'clock his nurse examined his pulse. It was about normal and his symptoms were all encouraging. In a few minutes Dr. Massie entered the room of the sick

LIEUT. FRANK M. WOON.

soldier and found him dying. Efforts to revive him proved futile.

Lieutenant Woon was taken ill at Camp Cuba Libre more than a month ago. It was not thought that he was seriously ill and he was permitted to come home. After reaching here he was on the street for a few hours during one or two days. At this time he was a guest at the residence of Mr. Ashburner, near the city. His condition becoming serious he was removed to the hospital for treatment.

HE DIED SUDDENLY.

Lieutenant Woon's condition was never regarded as very serious. It was known he was quite ill, but hope of his recovery was at no time given up. His fever was checked and under the treatment of experts and well trained nurses he steadily improved. Friends were permitted to visit and talk with him. His former commander, Major Sol Cutchins, of the Blues' Battalion, spent half an hour with him Tuesday evening. He found the lieutenant in a cheerful frame of mind and eager to return to his command. Hon. W. F. Reddy also visited him a day or two ago and the lieutenant said he would soon be out again. Yesterday the doctors told the lieutenant he would probably be able to sit out upon the porch to-day or to-morrow.

The cause of his death was heart failure, superinduced by his weakened physical condition.

Mr. J. W. Biley took the remains in charge and has them carried to his undertaking establishment. The body will be taken this morning to the residence of Mrs. Alice M. Reddy, No. 1005 east Marshall street, where the lieutenant boarded before he went away with his command to Jacksonville.

Major Cutchins, Mr. Reddy and other friends of the deceased are looking after the funeral arrangements. Lieutenant Woon was an Episcopalian, and his funeral will probably take place from St. Paul's to-morrow. Rev. Dr. Carmichael, his old chaplain, will be asked to conduct the services. The lieutenant will be buried in his uniform and with military honors.

SKETCH OF HIS LIFE.

Lieutenant Woon was born in the county of Kent in England, a little more than thirty years ago. He was the son of a colonel in the British army. Young Woon was educated for military service, but was rejected for physical reasons. When a youth he came to this country and resided with an English friend in Albemarle county. He had not been in this State long before he made the acquaintance of General Edgar Allan, who invited him to come to Richmond and read law in his office. This he did, and after attending the summer course at the University, was admitted to bar. He had his office for a few years in the rooms Mr. Reddy occupied at that time in Shafer building. The young lawyer built up a very good practice. He was regarded as a talented young man, but his tastes were for a military life and he did not apply himself closely to his profession.

HIS MILITARY CAREER.

About twelve years ago he joined the Blues and was soon made a corporal, then a sergeant, and was promoted in turn to first and second lieutenant. When the Blues Battalion was formed Major Cutchins appointed him adjutant with the rank of captain. He had just resigned this position when the war with Spain came on. Being anxious to see active service he joined the Grays and was made second lieutenant. In a few days First Lieutenant Goode was rejected on his physical examination and Lieutenant Woon was moved up a peg. He was in command of the company while Captain Bossieux was here securing recruits.

Frank Woon was a very popular young man. He numbered his friends by the hundreds. He was fond of all sorts of athletic sports and was widely known among the young men of the city, who were very fond of him. The lieutenant was one of the organizers of the British-American Association in Richmond, and was a Mason and a Heptasoph.

Lieutenant Woon had no relatives in this country. His parents are both dead. He leaves several brothers and sisters. Two brothers are officers in the British army, one being now in India and the other in South Africa.

Hoar Will Not Accept.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Although no official statement is made to that effect, it is understood from an authoritative source that Senator Hoar has practically declined to accept the post of Ambassador to Great Britain, just vacated by Colonel Hay.

WILL HEW TO THE LINE.

Captain Howell will Serve on the Commission If It's Powers are Unrestricted

ATLANTA, GA., Sept. 15.—The Constitution to-night received the following special dispatch from its New York correspondent:

"Captain Evan P. Howell, who is at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, will call on President McKinley Saturday in response to a telegram in reference to his suggested appointment as a member of the commission to investigate the War Department.

"Captain Howell said: 'If the commission is to have unrestricted power in the investigation, and I am assured that its scope is to be unlimited, I will accept an appointment on the commission, and if I serve it will be with the understanding that I will "hew to the line" let the chips fall where they may.'

"'The country demands that if there has been any official neglect of duty in any of the branches of the War Department the blame should be fixed so that those who are responsible may be held accountable, and the innocent not suffer from the mal-administration of those guilty of any incompetency.

"'If I serve on the commission, it will be solely for the purpose of going to the bottom of the whole situation. I am satisfied that nothing is further from the mind of the President than the encouragement of a "white-wash" report. I believe he wants the facts known, and, so far as I am concerned, they will be ascertained if I serve. I am fully prepared to do justice to every official.

"'Concerning that it was beyond the authority of the commission to compel the attendance of persons in order to require papers, which may be used by the commission, Captain Howell said: "that of course amounts to nothing. If a commission of this character should request the attendance of any human being connected with the Department or the presentation of any paper, the refusal would simply be an admission of guilt, which no officer would care to make. There will be no trouble about the commission reaching such persons and papers as it wants and seeing justice done as effectively as if it were acting under a compulsory resolution of Congress.'"

MAJOR FARRALL ILL.

The Popular Soldier Stricken Down at Camp Cuba Libre.

CAMP CUBA LIBRE, Sept. 14.—Special.—Major M. Farrall, of Norfolk, the commandant of the Second Battalion of the Fourth Regiment, was confined to his quarters this morning by sickness and unable to take charge of the battalion. He had been taken sick while on his leave of absence in Norfolk and when he returned here a few days ago he was by no means a well man and it was rather difficult for him to attend drills on that account. His place as battalion commander was filled this morning by Captain Causey, of Company F, of Suffolk. There was no adjutant for the battalion, as Lieutenant Spencer, the only lieutenant in camp from that command, was officer of the guard.

Corporal Cole has been given charge of the Quartermaster Department of the company, as Quartermaster Sergeant S. R. Donnan has received his discharge from the service. Corporal Livesay is detailed to special duty in the adjutant's office and Corporal Teller is confined to his quarters by sickness. Corporals Weisiger and Cherry are spending their furloughs in Richmond and Corporal Thomas is on a sick furlough of thirty days in Smithfield, while Corporal Crenshaw is sick at the division hospital.

While nothing has as yet been heard in regard to the resignation of Second Lieutenant W. P. Klein, of Company H, yet there is hardly any doubt that it will be accepted. His successor will be commissioned by Governor Tyler upon the recommendation of Colonel Taylor, the commanding officer of the regiment. First Sergeant James S. Hazen is entitled to the place in the line of promotion and it is safe to say that he will be commissioned, as he is the almost unanimous choice of the men of the company, and it is well understood that he is highly endorsed by the remaining two commissioned officers of the company. According to previous custom the endorsement of the company will largely influence the selection of the man.

Two more discharges have been granted to members of Company H, although the papers have not yet been received. This time the parties whose wishes have been gratified in this manner are Corporal Guy Cherry, who is now in Richmond, and who is due here to-morrow evening, and Private William P. McGavock.

Private Percy L. Derriest, of Company H, who has been quite ill at the division hospital, is much improved and hopes to be able to leave here to-morrow evening for Richmond on a sick furlough for thirty days.

Corporal Crenshaw has much improved at the hospital during the past twenty four hours and if his condition continues favorable, it is thought that he will also be able to leave here to-morrow evening for Richmond.

One of the interesting rumors that was spread about and which saw daylight to-day was to the effect that the two companies of the Blues would be detached from the Fourth Regiment and transformed into General Lee's body guard, to be stationed in Morro Castle at Havana.

If this should turn out to be true the men would certainly be well pleased for it would naturally be considered a great honor for the old Richmond Light Infantry Blues to be detailed to such service and the men could rest assured that they would be well taken care of in every respect.

In the meantime applications for furloughs and discharges continue to come in. This evening Quartermaster-Sergeant Edward Rutherford Donnan and Private E. M. Johnson, of Company H, of the Fourth Regiment, received their discharges and started for their homes in Richmond.

Second Lieutenant W. P. Klein, of Company H, also left for his home in Richmond this evening on a leave of absence prior to the acceptance of his discharge from the service. He very reluctantly left the boys, who all have been extremely fond of him and dislike greatly his retirement from soldier life. They know full well, however, that only the most urgent necessity would prevail on him to take this step.

Lieutenant Klein's departure leaves Captain Wyatt alone in charge of the company, at least for the present, since First Lieutenant L. L. Chestwood, who is at present in Richmond, has received an extension of his leave of absence for ten days.

The First North Carolina Regiment has by this time thoroughly established itself in its new camp and is well pleased with the change. There is hardly a regiment in the Seventh Corps that has shown the result of harder work and more efficient discipline since its arrival here. The record that the regiment has made for itself has been very good, and it is to-day regarded among the foremost

TO RELIEVE ADMIRAL MILLER

Commodore Kautz Has Been Assigned to Command of the Pacific Station.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Secretary Long assigned Commodore Kautz, at present in command of the naval training station at Newport, to command the Pacific station, in place of Admiral Miller, who is to retire in the course of a few weeks, being the senior admiral of the navy. Admiral Miller is now at Honolulu and Commodore Kautz has been directed to take the steamer from San Francisco for that place by October 10th.

RUSSIA AGAIN CONTROLS.

China Has Acceded to All Her Demands and Broken with the British.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The Pekin correspondent of the Times says: Despite the Emperor's assertion that he would brook no interference in the new Chiwang railway, he has acceded to all the propositions of Russia. As a consequence the negotiations with the British syndicate have been broken off. The reasons with those with Russia remained

WANT ABSOLUTE INDEPENDENCE.

Maximo Gomez Strongly in Favor of It.

FEAR UNITED STATES.

We Must Be Kept from Grabbing What Spain and Cuba Fought For.

SUSPICIOUS OF MR. PORTER.

Cubans Resent His Examinations Into the Tariff, Etc.—They Insist on Absolute Independence or a Fight to the Death. American Competition Feared.

HAVANA, Sept. 15.— 5:15 P. M.—The predominant feature is the agitation of the Cubans in favor of absolute independence of the island at all cost. Many posters are being circulated inviting the cooperation of Spanish merchants and others to this end and bringing out that either annexation or an American protectorate would mean death to all trade with Spain in a couple of years.

General Maximo Gomez, who only a fortnight ago, gave expression to extremely moderate views, counselling harmony and patience, now expresses himself as strongly in favor of "absolute independence or nothing." He says the Spanish element cannot afford to delay uniting with the Cubans, as a "necessary basis for the establishment of conditions that will forbid and prevent the United States grabbing and taking easy advantage of the treasure both the Spanish and Cubans have fought for at the expense of rivers of blood on each side."

"COWARDLY CURS."

General Gomez said that if report speaks truly that "those who fear independence belong to the same family of cowardly curs who fled from Havana at the first rumor of bombardment."

These, he declares, are, however, a minority; and, to quote him further "almost the entire Spanish population remained, protecting their homes and defying the dangers of war, and will now remain to unite their efforts with those of the Cuban party, working together with the Cubans for the development of the island and the return of prosperity."

A leading evening paper yesterday published a local letter purporting to voice the opinion of Catalonia in favor of independence and promising aid and co-operation.

WORKING HARD.

How far the influence of the party agitating for Cuban independence may extend it is at present difficult to estimate, but the fact is its agents are working like beavers. Some former sympathizers with the annexation movement are to be found to-day in the ranks of the independence movement.

This violent impetus given to the agitation for independence is the result, apparently, of the arrival of the Resolute, or rather of the arrival of Mr. Porter, and the examination he is making into tariffs, municipal taxation, and other matters of internal government, which the Cubans had expected to handle and administer themselves. Mr. Porter's operations are viewed with suspicion by an important section of the Cubans, who keep on calling meetings and protesting against a "usurpation of privileges purchased at such a sacrifice."

LIBERTY OR DEATH.

They insist upon absolute freedom, unrestrained liberty or a fight to the death. One reason why many Spaniards who at first favored annexation have now changed their opinion, is that they fear the competition of American rivals as store-keepers, hotel managers and restauranteurs. The same spirit prevails among the planters, especially the smaller ones.

"All this amounts practically to a silent admission of Cuba's inability to offer, if left to herself, the guarantees of stability that would induce foreign capital to come here to develop the island's resources. The deductions seem to be this: With Cuba independent, no foreign capital and no competition; with Cuba under American rule, a competition against which the Cubans would not have the energy nor the power to succeed. These questions are uppermost in every mind, causing general uneasiness and discontent, preventing the resumption of the normal tone of the market and blocking trade and traffic.

A QUIET DAY.

The American Evacuation Commissioners passed to-day quietly.

General Butler, his staff, and Robert Porter, are the only American representatives living on shore, but next week night shore leave will be granted to the staffs of Admiral Sampson and General Wade, whose members, under the navy regulations, are now obliged to be on board the Resolute at 5 P. M. sharp.

This morning members of the commission visited the government pawnshops to purchase pledged goods, but they were informed that these were only sold once a month at auction. The next sale takes place October 12th.

Captain Lloyd C. Griscomb, General Wades aide, will go to Matanzas in aday or two to look over the field there and report to the commission.

The electric plant at Cardenas has suspended public lighting, the municipality being in debt $300,000 to the concern.

The line of steamers plying between Caibarienand Nuevitas has resumed the sailings interrupted by the blockade.

Caibarien is reported entirely without meat.

The Comal having received orders from Washington to return to the United States, sailed this afternoon for Key West.

SUNK BY A TORPEDO.

An Experiment Schooner Blown Up While Testing Torpedoes.

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., Sept. 15.—During a test of Cunningham torpedoes in Priest's Cove, near here, this morning, the experiment schooner Freeman was blown up by an explosion of a projectile and sunk. A dozen men were on board of her at the time, but all escaped serious injury.

In fact, only two or three received slight scratches.

Lieutenant Holman, one of the survivors of the battleship Maine disaster, and Lieutenants Oliver and Marshall, the Government Board of Survey from the Newport torpedo station, had a miraculous escape. They were standing near the place where the explosion occurred, and were in the midst of the wreckage which followed. The men were rescued by a boat.

The cause of the explosion is a mystery, as two torpedoes were fired without accident yesterday and one this morning. The projectile which caused the damage was fired under apparently the same conditions.

AFTERMATH OF THE HURRICANE.

Later Reports Indicate Widespread Devastation by the Storm.

ST. VINCENT, BRITISH WEST INDIES, Sept. 15.—The official reports reduce the number of deads here during the hurricane.

It was at first estimated that three hundred lives were lost, but it is now believed the number is considerably smaller. The exact figures are not obtainable. The ship Loanda and the bark Grace Lynwood were cast ashore here and wrecked.

TRINIDAD, BRITISH WEST INDIES, Sept. 15.—A steamer which has arrived here from Barbadoes, reports that fearful havoc was caused there by a hurricane on Saturday night. The destruction of property was immense. It is believed over 150 persons were killed throughout the island and numbers were rendered homeless and destitute. The shipping suffered seriously. The ship Loanda, a bark, and two barkentines broke from their anchorage and were driven to sea. They had returned when the steamer left Barbadoes. Many local vessels were wrecked or blown out to sea.

Bridgetown, the capital of the island of Barbadoes, is a scene of desolation and ruin. Demolished or roofless houses are to be seen on every side and hardly a tree is standing.

LONDON, Sept. 15.—The dispatches received at the Colonial office from the British authorities in the West Indies indicate, as a whole, that the earlier reports of the havoc wrought by the hurricane were not exaggerated. They show widespread devastation.

Owing to the break down of the telegraph and telephone systems the real extent of the disaster is unknown, but financial aid is required. People are flocking into Kingston, St. Vincent, from all the country round for shelter and food. Everywhere it appears that all the small buildings any many large ones were destroyed, and there is no doubt that the fatalities were numerous. Sir Cornelius Moloney, Governor of the Windward Islands, cables that two vessels were sunk and that the fate of many others is unknown.

The Governor of Barbadoes, Sir J. A. Hay, reports that the hurricane was of ten hours' duration. Already he has been officially notified of sixty-one deaths and of thirty-one persons seriously wounded. The reports from the country districts in the island are incomplete, but there has been a heavy loss of government and private property. Assistance is urgently required.

RINGLEADERS ARRESTED.

Forty-Three Have Been Delivered to the British Admiral at Candia.

CANDIA, ISLAND OF CRETE, Sept. 15.—An aide-de-camp of Djvad Pasha boarded the British flagship last evening and announced that 29 houses, from which the British troops had been fired upon, had been demolished, and that 113 of the ring-leaders of the disturbances had been arrested. He added that the embassies of the Powers at Constantinople, in deference to the request of the Sultan, had agreed that the prisoners be tried by an international commission. This alleged decision of the embassies does not accord with the demands made by the British admiral, Gerard Henry Noel, and will increase the difficulty experienced in disarming the Mussulmans, as it encourages them in the belief that the Sultan of Turkey still influences the embassies of the Powers at Constantinople.

It is doubtful whether Great Britain will consent to include the outrage on her flag with the questions of pillage and the massacre of Christians, which are purely international questions.

Later forty-three of the ring-leaders, who had been arrested, were delivered to the British admiral, and it was considered probable that all the terms of his ultimatum would be complied without resistance.

FATAL RESULT OF STRIKE.

Striking Plasterers Shoot One Man and Beat Another.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Sept 15.—Wm. Kane was shot and mortally wounded and Edward G. Jackson, his companion, was beaten into unconsciousness early to-day while on their way to work, by striking plasterers. Jackson will recover.

Jackson and Kane were members of Plasterers Union No. 1. Several weeks ago the members of the International Plasterers Union, employed on a down town building went out on strike. Kane, Jackson, and several other men took the vacant places and formed local Union No. 1. Since there have been conflicts between the strikers and the men who took their places. The trouble culminated to-day in the assault. Matt Brown and Joseph Lee have been identified as the men who committed the assault.

THE PORTO RICAN COMMISSIONERS.

Their Work is Proceeding With No Hitch as Yet--Spanish Warships Leaving Porto Rico.

SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, Sept. 15.—The work of the United States-Porto Rican Evacuation Commission is proceeding rapidly. Two sessions were held yesterday. There has been no hitch yet. The Spaniards display no disposition to delay the work in hand. Both sides profess satisfaction, and by mutual agreement, no details of the deliberations are made public. The report circulated here that our commissioners have agreed to pay $7,000,000 for the Spanish fortifications and other property is preposterous.

EMPLOYES ARRIVE.

The steamer Yucatan has arrived here from Ponce with Professor Amil and the stengraphers and employes of the commission on board.

Captain Brady says it is now generally believed in Ponce that the reported yellow fever cases in the Nineteenth Infantry were incorrectly diagnosed. Three companies, C, D and F, are still quarantined, yet the soldiers are not alarmed.

The Spanish steamer City of Cadiz, with Spanish troops from Guantanamo on board, has arrived here, and is embarking the sick soldiers from the hospitals before proceeding for Spain. The Spanish officers and men are loud in their praises of the treatment they received from the Americans in Cuba.

SPANISH VESSELS LEAVE.

The Spanish warships Terror, Concha, Isabella XIII., and Ponce de Leon sailed for Martinique yesterday, where they will be docked before proceeding to Spain. Their departure was quiet. There was not a single cheer from the people or a salute from the forts. The crews of these ships aggregate six hundred men.

THE INSURGENT CONGRESS MEETS

Aguinaldo Makes the Opening Address.

LITTLE ENTHUSIASM.

The Message Was Received Coldly, Being Very Non-Committal.

PROMINENT MEN WERE ABSENT.

They Hold Aloof Until the Policy of the Congress is Declared—Many Are Opposed to Any Foreign Protectorate, But Others Listen to Wiser Counsels.

LONDON, Sept. 16.—The Manila correspondent of the Times, telegraphing Thursday, says:

"I am the only foreign journalist present at the Insurgent Congress at Malolos, which has been selected as the temporary capital of the revolutionary government. Early this forenoon Aguinaldo, accompanied by a large staff of generals and ministers, moved in state from the convent, now occupied as his military headquarters, passing between lines of infantry and through streets decorated with palms and banners and packed with thousands of peasants in holiday dress, to the church half a mile distant.

AGUINALDO SPEAKS.

"Here he was received by the assembled delegations and conducted to a platform in the chancel, from which he delivered a brief message in the Tagalon language, afterward repeating it in Spanish. The substance of the message was mostly congratulatory on the happy termination of the revolution and the complete conquest of the territory. He made a flowery appeal to the delegates, asking them by the memory of the illustrious patriots of Philippine history to follow the example of England, America and France in preparing a constitution and promulgating laws to secure the complete and permanent liberty of the people of the Philippines.

"The message excited but little enthusiasm because it was absolutely non-committal. The assembly then proceeded immediately to organize, preparatory to a discussion of the proposed constitution and code of laws and the election of a preident.

MANY ABSENT.

The absence of several of the most prominent and influential natives was particularly noticeable as indicating an intention to hold aloof until the policy of the Congress is fully declared. A strong party, intoxicated by the present measure of success, favors opposition to any foreign protectorate, being confident that the people can govern themselves. Wiser counsellors strenuously opposed such a suicidal policy. Apparently unanimity exists only in the determination to free the islands forever from Spanish rule. This is the universal feeling, and it will probably prove the controlling power in determining the final action of the Congress."

CAPTAIN EVANS RELIEVED.

His Next Sea Service May Be as an Admiral—Now Naval Inspector.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—Captain Robley D. Evans called at the Navy Department to-day and had a long talk with Secretary Long, the immediate result of which was the issue or an order relieving him of the command of the battleship Iowa, which is now being repaired at the New York Navy Yard. This was done at Captain Evans' request. He has served more than the period of time required by regulations and practice for a captain to command, and his next sea service may be in flag rank.

Secretary Long this afternoon decided to assign Captain Evans to duty as a member of the Naval Inspection Board, and he will assume his new duties after a brief vacation.

The next commander of the Iowa will be Captain Silas Terry, now in command of the receiving ship Franklin at the Norfolk Navy Yard. He will take the ship around South America and over to Honolulu in company with the Oregon and some colliers. It is said at the Navy Department to-day that the sailing orders to the battleships have not yet been issued and that when they are, they will take the ships only as far as Honolulu. It is not denied that they will ultimately proceed to join Dewey's fleet at Manila if it should be deemed expedient to reinforce him, but as their journey around South America will occupy nearly four months, and many changes in the situation as to the Philippines may be expected to occur before the expiration of that period of time, it cannot be certainly foretold whether or not the Oregon and the Iowa will ever reach Manila.

QUEEN REGENT PRESIDED.

Peace Commissioners Appointed To-Day—Queen Visits Sick Soldiers

MADRID, Sept. 15.—The Queen Regent presided at the Cabinet Council to-day. Senor Sagasta, the premier, outlined the situation and said that the government had received no reply from Washington to its request for the repatriation of Spaniards in the Philippines.

According to reports from Manila, one third of the prisoners of General Aguinaldo have died on account of bad treatment.

The Peace Commissioners will be appointed to-morrow.

MADRID, Sept. 15.—The Queen Regent pays daily visits to the sick soldiers who have returned from the colonies. She has ordered that the convalescents be conveyed in the royal carriages to the Casa Del Campo in the Royal Park, and is paying from her own purse for proper food for the invalids.

The correspondent here of the Associated Press has conversed with officers, invalids and others, who have returned from Santiago.

They all extol the kindness of the Americans after the surrender.

They do not display the slightest animosity against the Americans, but entertain bitter feeling against the Cubans.

Lawton's Health Bulletin.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15.—The following is General Lawton's daily health report from Santiago: Total sick, 1,266; total fever, 741; total new cases, 84; total returned to duty, 294; deaths, 6.

Ellerbe's Majority Grows.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Sept. 15.—Practically returns are in at last in the gubernatorial contest. Out of a total vote of 85,297, Governor Ellerbe's majority over Featherstone (Prohibitionist) has grown to 2,437.