

THEY MAY BE THE VICTIMS OF SPANIARDS

Dewey Has Several Theories as to the Fate of Gillmore's Men.

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MANILA, April 20.—Admiral Dewey, in an interview to-day, said the expedition of the gunboat Yorktown to Baler was purely to rescue Spanish soldiers and priests who are being besieged in the church there. The soldiers refused to surrender when ordered to lay down their arms by General Rios at the end of the Paris Peace Conference.

Admiral Dewey said he did not know what had become of Lieutenant Gillmore and the fourteen men in the launch. They had been sent to sound the mouth of the river, but went beyond a bend out of sight of the Yorktown. His supposition is they were captured or killed by the Spaniards or by the 400 insurgents who are besieging the Spanish garrison.

Admiral Dewey declined to say what steps he would take toward a punitive expedition.

General Rios, the Spanish commander, when interviewed, said he did not think the garrison at Baler knew the war between the United States and Spain had ended. He had sent an officer in January to tell the garrison to surrender. The garrison refused, either not believing the officer or fearing they would be trapped by the insurgents. Since then General Rios has had no communication with the garrison, and this is the first information he has had that the Spanish flag is still flying at Baler.

He thought the Americans were shot at by the insurgents, as the Spaniards themselves are besieged and have no way of getting to the river. General Rios said he had not been consulted in sending the expedition to the relief of Baler.

I read a letter containing General Rios' last appeal to Aguinaldo, in which he said the release of the Spanish prisoners would create a bond of sympathy between the Filipinos and Spain.

HI RAPELJI SLAYER OF LEONG TUNG

A Sensational Development in the Highbinders' War at Fresno.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

FRESNO, April 20.—Hi Rapelji, the deputy sheriff who acquired fame throughout the State a few years ago by his capture of Sontag and Evans, created a sensation to-night by confessing to District Attorney Everts that he had shot and killed Leong Tung, one of the victims of the highbinder riot in Chinatown last night.

Rapelji is now employed as a watchman in the Chinese quarter and was the first white man to reach the scene of the excitement after the shooting commenced. During the melee he caught a Chinaman named Wong Duck and turned him over to Deputy Sheriff Walden. At the time he claimed that he had seen Wong Duck shoot and kill Leong Tung.

At the inquest held over the remains of the dead Chinaman to-day Rapelji denied that he had seen Duck kill Tung, but claimed that he simply caught him running in the alley during the shooting. Rapelji's testimony was regarded as rather peculiar and was a surprise to every one.

To-night District Attorney Everts visited Chinatown in company with Attorney W. D. Crichton and together they proceeded to cross-examine the watchman. The latter told a number of conflicting stories, but was finally cornered by the attorneys and admitted that he himself had fired the bullet which killed Leong Tung.

When he entered the alley after the commencement of the shooting Rapelji saw a Chinaman lying prostrate on the ground and being held down by another Mongolian. A third man stood a few feet away and was discharging his pistol at the body on the ground. The man who was holding the victim down was Wong Duck, the victim was Leong Gee, who is now in the Morgue, and the shooter was Leong Tung. Rapelji rushed up and struck Tung, who turned to run into an adjacent doorway. He was ordered to halt and upon his refusal to do so Rapelji fired, killing him instantly.

The watchman then turned around and saw Wong Duck in the act of running away from the body of the dead Chinaman. He caught the Celestial by the queue and held him until the arrival of the Deputy Sheriff. After the shooting Rapelji declared that the man who had been lying on the ground jumped up and bolted. His dead body on a slab at the Morgue is a mute contradiction of this story.

PRESIDENT IN FEAR OF TOM REED

Believes the Maine Man Is Looking Toward the White House.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, April 20.—Thomas B. Reed's change of residence from Maine to this city has created uneasiness among the friends of President McKinley. They suspect that instead of abandoning his Presidential ambition Reed has merely shifted his ground to be in a better position to attack the convention next year.

Governor Roosevelt's admirers also are not overjoyed at having a Republican of Reed's importance invade the State. They fear he may stand in the way of their favorite when the time comes for New York to select candidates.

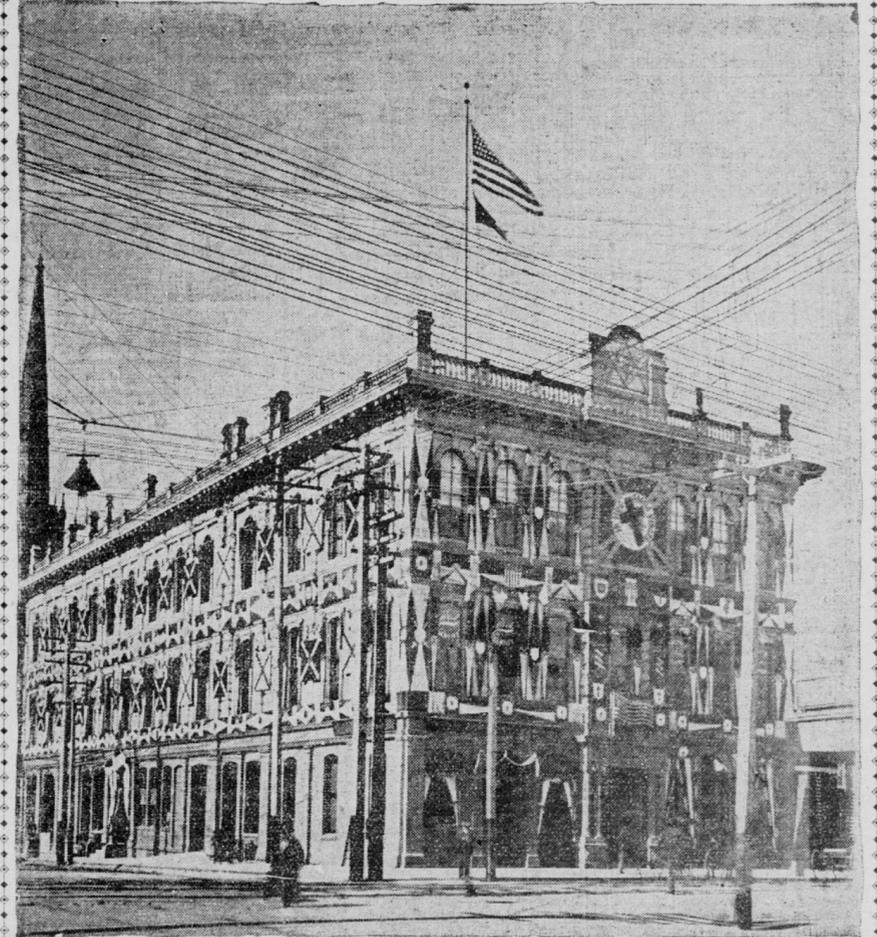
Senator Platt's friendship for the former Speaker is looked upon as an element of danger in the situation. While ostensibly supporting Governor Morton for the nomination in 1896, it was no secret that he was really for Reed. Though he has made his peace with President McKinley and is now on an intimate footing in the White House, the President's friends have not forgotten the bitter assaults which he made upon President McKinley before the St. Louis convention.

They are disinclined to credit the financial reason given by Reed's friends for his removal to this city. They say he is receiving a comfortable income, and that he would not have withdrawn from his position of power and influence in Washington merely for the sake of increasing it. They suspect that a secret understanding exists between him and Senator Platt whereby the fight which was lost in 1896 will be renewed next year.

With the seventy-two delegates of New York at his back Reed would be a much more formidable candidate for the Presidency than he was as the candidate of the twelve delegates from Maine. Moreover, his strength in New England would probably be at his disposal even should he become the candidate of New York.

Should there be a change of sentiment in regard to the results of the war with Spain it is even feared by President McKinley's friends that Reed's anti-expansion views and his freedom from responsibility for the new policy would make him strong in the convention.

KNIGHTS' TEMPLAR IN A BEAUTIFUL PARADE



MASONIC TEMPLE AT SACRAMENTO.

SACRAMENTO, April 20.—The encampment of the Grand Commandery and department convocation of the Knights Templar of California opened in this city this morning with a short session devoted to the presentation of reports, followed by the annual parade and review. The city never looked more attractive than it did to-day, garbed in the Templar colors of white and black, relieved by the Stars and Stripes. On all sides the decorations were in evidence, and in many instances they represented the expenditure of much labor and money, the business men of the city appearing to disregard all other considerations in the endeavor to make the visitors feel that they were heartily welcome.

The main feature of the day was the parade this afternoon of the commanderies. For such an occasion the weather was simply perfect, the sky being free from a single cloud and a soft breeze cooling the air. Thousands of women, dressed in summer attire, imparted to the crowded sidewalks along the line of march the charm of freshness and color, and it is doubtful if the Knights ever marched through a city which beamed such a cheery hospitality or invited more irresistibly to enthusiasm.

The spirit of the day caught the musicians, the plumed Knights and the populace all at once, and there is nobody among the hundreds of visitors who is not glad of the chance of having seen Sacramento under such favorable conditions.

The procession was headed by Chief Dwyer and a platoon of police in uniform. Then followed, in order, the right eminent grand commander; grand commander's staff; grand captain general and his chief of staff; bugler and orderly; Second Infantry band. Then followed the first battalion, Sir T. B. Reed battalion commander, comprising Sacramento Commandery No. 2, four companies. The second battalion, in command of Sir Thomas B. Hall, was made up of Pacific Commandery No. 3, El Dorado Commandery No. 4, Orville Commandery No. 5, Nevada Command-

ery No. 6, Marysville Commandery No. 7, four companies. The third battalion was in charge of Sir J. W. Guthrie and was formed of Stockton Commandery No. 8, Los Angeles Commandery No. 9, Chico Commandery No. 10, Lassen Commandery No. 13, Red Bluff Commandery No. 17, Woodland Commandery No. 21, Colusa Commandery No. 24, Visalia Commandery No. 26, Fresno Commandery No. 29, Mount Shasta Commandery No. 32, four companies.

The parade proceeded through the principal streets, over more than two miles of smooth bitumen pavement, and was watched by thousands. Along Capitol Park the review by the grand commander took place and the sight was an impressive one when the Knights marched along in the shadow of the palms that sentinel the outer edge of Capitol Park. Even upon the balconies of the Capitol itself people had stationed themselves to catch an advantageous view of the procession.

The forty-first annual session of the Grand Commandery of the Knights Templar of California opened this morning in the Masonic Temple, which had been rendered a thing of beauty by the handiwork of the decorator and florist. The commandery was called to order by the grand commander, Robert Morris Powers of San Diego, who proceeded to read his annual address. Referring to the recent war with Spain, following the blowing up of the Maine, the grand commander said: "These events are matters of recent history and familiar to you all, and I mention them only to show that in this record-making epoch our fraters, whether on land or sea, nobly performed their part, adding greater luster and greater meaning to the term 'American'."

DISASTROUS FIRE VISITS SAN JOSE

Special Dispatch to The Call.

SAN JOSE, April 20.—A disastrous fire broke out in the cooper shop of Zicovich's winery on West San Carlos street, near the narrow-gauge track, about 1:30 this morning, and before the flames were checked over \$100,000 worth of property was destroyed.

The conflagration is the worst that has visited this city for some time, and owing to it being outside the city limits and an inadequate water supply little could be done to save anything.

A Zicovich's winery and the warehouse of Castle Bros., fruit shippers, with their contents were totally destroyed, as was the residence of E. O. Brown adjoining. Across the railroad track, not a block away, are the buildings of the Great Western Can Company and the San Jose Fruit Company, and for a time it looked as though these buildings might take fire, but a bucket brigade did effective work. Had these buildings burned the fruit industry would have been materially affected, as much of the valley's product is handled by the fruit packing company.

The fire was discovered in the cooper shop by Patrolmen Marcon and Black. The West San Jose Hose Company did good work, but they had not sufficient apparatus to handle it. It spread to the winery and then to Castle Brothers' warehouse on the east. Just how the fire started is a mystery, for no work had been done in the cooper shop for nearly a year. It looks, however, as incendiary.

The winery building cost \$25,000 when built ten years ago by A. Zicovich. In it were nearly 240,000 gallons of wine. There were machinery, belting, etc., and some 300,000 gallons of cooperage, valued at about \$15,000. A conservative estimate of the winery and contents is placed at \$75,000. Some of the wine was the property of H. H. Koosev. On the building and contents were about \$80,000 insurance. On the 10th of this month J. W. Rea & Co. wrote a policy on it for \$50,175 in the Home Insurance Company for Zicovich, J. A. Clayton & Co. held \$15,000 insurance, Wooster & Whitton \$5,000, and Crossman & Orvis \$10,500 on wine and contents.

Castle Brothers' loss is estimated at about \$100,000 to \$150,000. The warehouse was owned by I. G. Knowles, who places his loss at \$10,000, with no insurance. Castle Brothers are protected by insurance. They lost their packing outfit and from 100 to 150 tons of dried fruit. E. O. Brown's loss on his residence and furniture is about \$1500.

For some time Zicovich has been financially embarrassed and foreclosure suits have piled up against him. About a year ago another mysterious fire occurred in close proximity to that of this morning, when some half a dozen cottages belonging to Zicovich were destroyed. At that time his loss was from \$15,000 to \$20,000, with ample insurance. There were two mortgages on the winery property. Julian Reis had one of \$20,000 and Mrs. Rhefeldt another of \$25,000. Besides there was a chattel mortgage of \$18,000 on the machinery in the place. Zicovich stated this evening that he was satisfied the fire was the work of an incendiary. He had been in San Francisco negotiating

WOULD MEAN WAR, ONLY IT IS NOT TRUE.

Story of the Imprisonment of the Commander of the Falke Carries Its Own Refutation.

THE story of the arrest at Apia of the captain of the German cruiser Falke by a party of British bluejackets, brought to Victoria by the Australian liner Aorangi to-day, carries its own refutation.

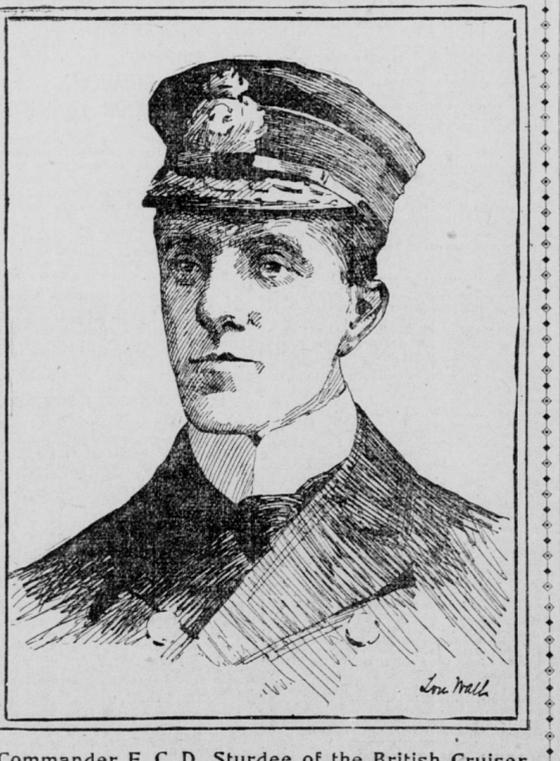
The Aorangi does not stop at Samoa on her trip from Wellington, N. Z., to British Columbia, but does call at Suva, Fiji. The distance from Samoa to Fiji is only about 500 miles.

Giving the interisland steamer two days to make the run of 500 miles from Apia to Suva and the mail boat 14 days to make the run from Fiji to British Columbia, that would make the news from Samoa bear date of April 1, or, giving an extra 24 hours for the doubt, say March 31.

Thus the Upolu, leaving Apia on the afternoon of April 1, should reach Suva on the morning of the 3d, and the Aorangi (a 13-knot ship), picking up the news on the afternoon of April 6, on her arrival there, should reach Victoria on the 20th.

The Oceanic Steamship Company's steamer Alameda, which carried to Auckland the cablegram in which The Call beat the newspaper world, giving the story of the ambush of Lieutenant Lansdale and party, left Apia on April 6, the same day on which the Aorangi left Suva. The Alameda also carried to Auckland Rear Admiral Kautz's official account of the ambuscade. It is more than incredible, it is impossible, that both The Call's correspondent and the admiral would have failed to mention so important a matter as the arrest of the captain of the Falke.

VICTORIA, B. C., April 20.—A queer yarn comes from Apia, via Suva, by the steamer Aorangi. The story was brought to the Fiji capital on April 3 by the interisland steamer, Upolu, which runs between the Samoan and Fiji groups. It was said that the commander of the German man-of-war Falke is now in a position where he will make no more trouble at Apia—at least for some time to come. He has, the tale goes, been made a prisoner by the British, and despite the protest of his compatriots, both on the Falke and ashore, is held captive on the British warship Porpoise.



Commander F. C. D. Sturdee of the British Cruiser, Who Probably Does Not Hold the Commander of the Falke Prisoner.

The story, as told to the Suva and Honolulu papers by the late arrivals from Apia, is that the captain of the Falke is charged with having supplied the rebels under Mataafa with arms and ammunition, having, the Upolu's passengers say in interviews given to the Fiji Times, been caught while engaged, like a common filibuster, in landing rifles and cartridges.

The Upolu's passengers say the Falke was, when they left, moored between the American cruiser Philadelphia and the British ship Porpoise, and was likely to remain there, for it is said the Fiji Times, been caught while engaged, like a common filibuster, in landing rifles and cartridges.

Realizing the gravity of the situation, Captain Sturdee hastily summoned Admiral Kautz from the American ship Philadelphia. The American admiral at once went aboard the Porpoise, and the situation was discussed between the two officers at great length. The result of the conference was a decision on the part of the two

officers that, there being ample evidence of the guilt of the Germans, they must stand by the action of Captain Sturdee. Both ships got under way, and after they had taken up positions on either side of the German ship, orders were sent on board the Falke to remain at her moorings under peril of immediate annihilation by the warships on either side. The senior officer of the Falke was informed at the same time by the joint commanders of the British and American ships that they were prepared to back up their action.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS DISCREDIT THE STORY

WASHINGTON, April 20.—The statement that the commander of the German cruiser Falke had been arrested at Apia by the British naval commander was at once scouted by the officials to whom it was referred here. Both Secretary Alger and Secretary Long expressed their disbelief in the accuracy of the report. Attention was directed to the fact that the Navy Department heard from Admiral Kautz by cable from Auckland at a later date than that upon which the steamer just arrived at Victoria must have sailed from Suva. Admiral Kautz' dispatches were dated April 4 and were forwarded from the nearest cable station, Auckland, April 12.

It is pointed out in official German quarters that the arrest of the commander of one warship by the commander of another is an absurdity, and moreover, cable advices have reached the Embassy much later than those which a steamer had brought to Victoria. No such action was disclosed. The British Embassy also is without any information of such an occurrence.