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HEROISM WAS LIEUT. HOBSON'S CHOICE.

With Seven Brave Sailors He Volunteered To Enter The Jaws of Death!

Washington, June 4.—(Special.)—A navy bulletin received late this afternoon from Mole St. Nicholas, contained an official report from Admiral Sampson, as follows:

"I succeeded in sinking the collier Merrimac in the channel of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba at 4 a. m., June 3. Naval Constructor Richmond P. Hobson and seven sailors executed it. Afterwards Admiral Cervera, under a flag of truce, sent in a recognition of their bravery. I am told two of them are slightly wounded and all are prisoners of war. I request authority to apply for an exchange, if possible, between these men and the Spanish prisoners at Atlanta. Six of the Spanish ships are in the harbor and are unable to escape without capture or destruction." Signed SAMPSON.

Hobson and the hero crew of the Merrimac were saved in the following manner: Unable after the sinking of their vessel to make their way back through the storm of shot and shell, they rowed into the harbor to the Spanish flagship and were taken on board unharmed. Hobson is a naval constructor, and lieutenant of the junior grade. He was appointed an assistant naval constructor in 1891. He entered the navy from Alabama.

The Merrimac was purchased by the Government from the Lone Star Steamship Company. The transfer was made in Baltimore early in April. She was formerly the Norwegian steamer Solveig, and was nearly destroyed by fire at Newport News in 1896. She was built at Newcastle, England, in 1894, was 330 feet long, 44 feet beam, and had a net register of 2,193 tons. The Merrimac left Norfolk, where she was fitted for Government purposes, about a month ago.

The Hero of the Merrimac---

Alabama is His Home.

Birmingham, Ala., June 4.—(Special.)—Lieut. Richmond P. Hobson, who commanded the Merrimac on its perilous mission in Santiago harbor, is a native of Hale County, Ala., having been born and reared at Greensboro. He is the son of Judge Augustus Hobson, who was Probate Judge of Hale County, Ala., for twenty-five years.

Lieut. Hobson took a high stand at the Naval Academy, finishing at the head of his class. He has been several times assigned to special work on account of his eminent fitness for the same. He is a bold, dashing officer, and no one who knows him is surprised to hear of

his remarkable achievement. He belongs to one of the best families in the State.

Madrid Takes a Cheerful View.

The Coal Will Be Appropriated.

Madrid, June 4.—(Special.)—The Minister of Marine read an official dispatch to-day to the Queen regent and Cortes about the sinking of the Merrimac and the capture of one lieutenant and seven sailors. No reference was made to the fact that Sampson had the Merrimac sunk in order to block the Santiago harbor. The Minister of Marine later said the Spanish fleet would secure the coal that was on the Merrimac and that the sunken vessel would not blockade or bottle the fleet.

Spaniards Clearing the Wreck---

Dynamite Being Used On It.

Port Au Prince, June 4.—(Special.)—Further news received here from Santiago de Cuba confirms the reports that the bombardment of that place began at 3 o'clock yesterday morning.

After the action the Spanish blew up with dynamite the sunken American Collier Merrimac, and have been at work clearing the channels, in all probability, to permit Admiral Cervera's fleet to put out to sea should the Cadiz squadron, under Admiral Camara, arrived in Cuban waters to relieve the blockaded ships.

Bryan Gets His Commission.

He May Be Sent to Manila.

Lincoln, Neb., June 4.—Adj. Gen. Barry has received a telegram from Secretary Alger saying that the Third Regiment volunteer infantry, organized by W. J. Bryan, has been accepted by the Government, and might be added to the contingent going to the Philippines. As soon as this news was received Mr. Bryan was so notified and went to Gov. Holcomb's office and a conference was held, the outcome of which, although it has not yet been publicly announced, was that Bryan was appointed Colonel of the regiment and given his commission.

Facts About The Merrimac---Sunk

By Design In the Channel.

Washington, June 4.—(Special.)—"The cork is driven in the bottle," was the comment of the naval officers at the Navy Department this morning upon the news of the sinking of the Merrimac in the channel at the entrance of Santiago harbor.

Altogether the action is applauded at the Navy Department as a very brilliant strategy move. It is the opinion of naval officers that now that the entrance to the harbor is thus effectively blocked, a couple of monitors, with a swift cruiser and two or three small torpedo or gunboats, will be sufficient to guard the entrance, while Schley and Sampson can go along to convoy the troops to Porto Rico and elsewhere.

BACCALAUREATE SERMON.

By Eld Crossfield at the Christian Church To-night.

The baccalaureate sermon of South Kentucky College will be preached at the Christian church to-night at 8 o'clock by Edd R. H. Crossfield, of Owensboro, one of the best preachers in this end of the State.

Junior exercises and the oratorical contest will be held Tuesday night at the college chapel.

The graduating exercises will come off Wednesday night at Holland's Opera House.

Temperature 94 Yesterday.

Yesterday was by two degrees the hottest day of the year. The official thermometer of J. M. Howe registered 94 in the shade.

AT CAMPBELL'S CAVE.

A Merry Party of Juvenile Picnickers There Yesterday.

Mrs. L. H. McKee, Mrs. Molly Lowry, and Mrs. T. D. Armistead chaperoned a party of the little folks who enjoyed a picnic at Campbell's cave yesterday afternoon. Those present were:

Misses Mary Jones, Janie Graham, Maggie Ellis, Lucille Ellis, Mary Anderson, Mannie Walker, Betsie Ware, Clayton Boales, Rowena Wall, Edwina Cook, Susie Cook, Marie and Jean Goldthwaite, Martha Hardwick, Jennie McRae, Mollie Garnett, Mary Cushman, Tillie Moore, Norine Elgin, Katie May Cooper and Jean McKee.

Masters Ewell Wood, Herman

Emmis, Howell Ragsdale, Ellis McKee, Gordon Buckner, Lawson Plack, Joe Wall, Jim Chappell, Charlie McCarroll, Tom Goldthwaite, Ernest Howe and Charles McKee.

TO DISCUSS FREE ROADS.

The Turnpike Question to be Taken up at Once.

County Judge Cansler has called a special term of the fiscal court to meet next Thursday June 9, for the purpose of considering the important matter of free turnpike roads in the county. There has for some time been a growing interest on this subject, that has already been acted upon in many counties. The meeting will be one of great interest and far reaching importance.

School Children in the County.

From the annual report of Miss McDaniel just forwarded to the State Superintendent, the following statistics are gleaned:

CHILDREN IN THE COUNTY.

White males, 2,678; females, 2,493; total 5,171. Colored males, 2,228; females, 2,315; total 4,543. Whole number in the county: Males, 4,906; females, 4,808; total 9,714. This is fifty less than were reported last year.

IN THE CITY DISTRICT.

White males, 477; females, 514; total, 991; colored males, 443; females, 560; total 1,003. Whole number in the city, males, 920; females, 1074; total, 1,994. This is 103 more than were inrolled last year.

The whole number of pupil children in the city and county, between 6 and 20, is: Males, 5,826; females, 5,882; total, 11,708.

LAST CABLE CUT.

Dispatch Boat Takes the News To Jamaica.

Cuba Is Now Completely Isolated From the Outside World.

Kingston, Jamaica, June 4.—(Special.)—The last cable strands binding Cuba to the outside world were cut yesterday afternoon by a cable vessel convoyed there by the United States Dispatch boat Dolphin. This black sea crab delved all day along the coast, hour by hour, and its powerful claws at length brought up the barnacle-clustered cable strands and snapped them and now Cuba is isolated.

A DELIBERATE PLAN.

Merrimac Sunk in the Harbor for a Purpose.

Washington, June 4.—The Washington Post this morning says: There is absolutely no doubt in the minds of the naval officials in Washington that the sending of the collier into the harbor was all a prearranged movement on the part of Admiral Sampson. The use of a collier, the unusual hour of the morning, the necessity of blockading the channel so as to relieve some of the ships of the squadron from remaining stationed off Santiago, the importance of discovering whether the mines were effective—all these reasons make it certain that the Merrimac was deliberately guided to her destruction. It was not a Spanish victory. It was a cleverly arranged scheme on the part of the American Admiral, and it was successful. The eight men in a Spanish prison are the real heroes of the war.

If the Merrimac went in under her own crew it is interesting to know that her complement of officers consisted of Commander J. M. Miller, Lieut. W. W. Gilmer, executive officer; Ensigns, J. R. Y. Blakely and J. M. Luby, and Assistant Engineer R. K. Crank. Miller is from Missouri, Gilmer from Virginia, Luby and Crank from Texas. It is expected that reports will be received to-day from Admiral Sampson which will give details of the Merrimac's destruction and the names of the eight men who have been captured.

Merrimac Is a Collier.

The Santiago advices to Cape Haytien, in referring to the sunken vessel as an auxiliary cruiser, probably mistake her character. The Merrimac is a collier and always has been a collier.

She was acquired for this purpose at the outbreak of the war. The Merrimac sailed from Hampton Roads with Commodore Schley's fleet and was before Cienfuegos May 23, when Schley's fleet coaled from her. It is probable that the Merrimac had exhausted her coal supply and that Admiral Sampson ordered her to risk the guns of the fort in the hope of being sunk by torpedoes and block the channel against the escape of Cervera. The Merrimac was probably manned by a volunteer crew of just sufficient number to run the ship, who prepared to leap when the explosion should come.

Howard-Baker Feud.

Pineville, Ky., June 4.—The Howard-Baker feud is raging in Clay county. Lilse Baker was killed last night. James Garrard has fled to Middlesboro. Judge Brown will not be allowed to hold court on Monday. It is said that Gov. Bradley has been solicited for troops to protect court, but has none to send. Six men have been killed in the last ten days.

CITY LEVY FIXED.

Interesting Session of the Council Last Night.

Assessor's Report Shows a Falling Off in City Assessment For 1898.

When the council was called to order by Mayor F. W. Dabney, at eight o'clock, every member of the Board was in his seat.

The report of the Finance committee was rendered by councilman Ware, chairman of that committee. It was moved that the accounts as audited by the committee be allowed. Mr. Ware, while not opposing the motion, suggested that Mr. Roake, sexton of the cemetery, be instructed to exercise more care in making promiscuous bills.

The claims were then allowed.

A lengthy discussion of the ordinance assessing and taxing dogs was precipitated and it was found that they had not been assessed since 1896. Although the ordinance had not been repealed. This discussion grew out of several requests to release payment of assessments on dogs.

Complaints were preferred against the Gas Company by residents of the first ward in the vicinity of the Gas Works. It was charged that the sewerage was very offensive and detrimental to the health.

Mr. W. T. Tandy appeared for the company. He said that the company was willing to act upon any suggestion that the council might make. The absence of a city sewerage system was responsible for the condition. Mr. Tibbs moved that the Gas Company be ordered to abate the nuisance at once. Mr. Tandy asked that a committee be appointed to confer with the Gas Company relative to the most feasible plans. Mr. Ware amended Mr. Tibbs' motion allowing the Mayor to appoint a committee on behalf of the council. The amendment prevailed. As a matter of temporary relief Mr. Tandy promised that the sewers should be flushed Monday morning. Messrs. Wall, Tibbs and Brasher were appointed by the Mayor. The discussion consumed more than an hour.

Having disposed of this question temporarily, the Board again took up the question of the assessment of dogs for taxation. The Assessor explained that it was tacitly understood among the members of the council in 1897, although it does not appear upon the record of any meeting, that there should be no assessment, but that the chief should make a note of the owners of all dogs and collect \$1 for each dog and issue a tag to the owner thereof. The law which had become a nullity by default was revived.

The tax levy for 1898 was on motion fixed. The city assessor stated that the total assessment for the year amounted to \$1,987,038, for whites and \$147,020, for colored property owners. The figures for the preceding year were, white, \$2,037,315, colored, \$155,000, a falling off of \$58,000. The city assessor attributes the heavy falling off to losses in building and loan stocks during the past year. The council, after some discussion, agreed upon \$1.50 on the \$100, as the levy, \$1.00 of which should go the city fund and 50c to the school fund.

The council adjourned for a brief executive session, after which the members dispersed.

ALARM OF FIRE.

Caused By a Large Basket of Clothes Being Ignited.

An alarm of fire was turned in shortly after two o'clock yesterday afternoon. It created the usual amount of excitement on the streets and in the vicinity of the engine house.

A couple of gentlemen passing the residence of Mr. A. H. Clark, on Campbell street, noticed smoke issuing from the rear of the house and found that neither Mr. Clark nor his wife was aware of the proximity of danger. A large basket filled with clothes on a back porch had in some mysterious way become ignited and but for timely assistance might have communicated to the building. All danger was over when the department arrived.

An Office Flooded.

A water pipe in W. F. Garnett & Co.'s office burst Saturday afternoon and flooded the office. The water ran through the floor and did considerable damage to the goods in Richards & Co.'s store underneath. The water ran several minutes before a plumber could be summoned to stop it.

Buildings Accepted.

Mr. Hutchinsons, the Louisville architect who drew the plans for the asylum additions, came down from Louisville Friday and after a careful examination and inspection

of the buildings formally accepted them on behalf of the State, releasing the commissioners from further responsibility. The improvements represent an expenditure of \$60,000.

Will Open a Canning Factory.

Guthrie is soon to have a canning factory that will utilize all the surplus vegetables in Todd and surrounding counties. A canning company will be organized at once and this year's crop will be worked up.

For the Impatient.

President Lincoln's first call for 75,000 volunteers was issued April 15, 1861, and the battle of Bull Run was fought July 21. Over three months had been consumed in mobilizing and drilling an army not nearly as large as the one now in camp, and yet the government found to its cost that the troops were very raw.—Indianapolis Journal.

Two Colored Recruits.

Lieut. Johnson, of the Tenth Colored Cavalry, recruited two more colored troopers for his regiment yesterday and sent them on the 11:16 train last night to Fort McPherson. They were James Jackson and John Glover, both residents of this city.

BASEBALL NEWS.

(SPECIAL.)

Cincinnati 5, New York 3. Baltimore 7, St. Louis 0. Pittsburgh 4, Philadelphia 3. Brooklyn 6, Chicago 4. Louisville 4, Washington 2. Cleveland and Boston postponed.

The panel of the petit juries was tendered his resignation and sever- / twenties at 3 per cent interest.