

EASY CONQUEST OF CUBA

ANTICIPATED BY THOSE WHO KNOW SPAIN'S RESOURCES

GENERAL SHAFTER'S FORCE IS DUE AT SANTIAGO TODAY

NO FORMAL TIDINGS OF THE TWO ARMIES OF INVASION

Spanish Regulars in Cuba Are Not a Formidable Force, and the Experience of Meeting Well-Armed Troops, Who Will Fight and Not Run, Will Prove a Shock to Them

Volunteers Are Good Fighters, but Object to Getting Up Early in the Morning

Washington Bureau St. Paul Globe, Corcoran Building.

Special to The St. Paul Globe.

WASHINGTON, June 19.—Unofficial Washington expected to hear important news today.

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They were equally reticent as to another rumor that operations were to be prosecuted with unusual vigor.

The truth probably is between the two stories. The administration doubtless intends to do as it has from the start; prosecute the war as vigorously as possible.

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This work will take two or three days, and operations against the enemy are expected about the middle of the week.

CAMPAIGN IN CUBA.

Now that early news is expected of the landing of Shafter's army at Santiago, interest here is centering in what will happen when the land campaign actually opens.

The information from the war department is that three different classes of fighting men will be met by the forces of the United States.

The most annoying, and the least numerous, are the guerrillas, composed almost exclusively of an outcast class of blacks, fit for prison if they have not just been released to do duty in the service of the country that released them.

They are not likely to give or to look for quarter, and may be expected to be guilty of atrocities to the dead or to prisoners in battle.

They never fight in bodies, but scatter in the bush and have some craft of the woods and the trail.

Another sort of soldier to be looked for is the volunteer. He is a Cuban attached to Spain, and he dislikes the insurgents intensely, and will fight stubbornly, but without great military skill.

These are not looked for in great numbers at the east end of the island, but in and about Havana they are numerous and well equipped.

They have better notions of drill than the regulars, but they are not inclined to get up early in the morning to fight.

From such information as the army has, the third class, made up of the Spanish regulars, will be the most numerous and the least to be feared.

They have not been well cared for by Spain, they have no such discipline and drill as the men of the United States army, they do not know what it is to march long distances; insufficient food has reduced their ability for energetic work; they have no hostility to the Cubans, and they will fight because they cannot choose to do otherwise.

AN EASY VICTORY.

Some of the officers of the army who have been looking into the conditions of the United States forces say they will not be surprised to hear that the subjugation of the Spaniards in Cuba will turn out to be very much such a task as the army of the United States undertook in the Mexican war, when the progress toward the City of Mexico was scarcely obstructed.

None of the Spanish soldiers have ever been in anything like a battle. They have been beset by small insurgent bands, when they could not avoid them, and they have sometimes discharged their Mauser rifles into the bush in the hope that there was something to hit. The experience of meeting with armed forces that will not run when attacked will be an entire novelty to them.

If 500 marines could penetrate five miles into the enemy's country with such success as was met at Guan-

namo, army men and navy men, too, believe that the regiments of the army will soon demonstrate their fitness to "do up" the Spaniards in conflict. To the marines the experience they have been having was new. Not one in ten of them has ever had anything except barrack experience, varied by duty on board ship in piping times of peace.

The infantry and cavalry of the army have had some fighting experience. They have learned on the plains some lessons about tackling foes who skulk and run, and who indulge in ambushes.

NO CHANCE TO LOSE.

For many reasons merely suggested here army officers look for interesting reports as soon as Gen. Shafter's men get ashore and are afforded a chance to use their Krag-Jorgensen rifles.

"If," said one of them today, "there is any Spanish force to be found in the open or in the bush, our infantrymen and dismounted cavalry will find and fight them with good appetite, regardless of the weather. Only those who have come in contact with the regular of the plains know anything about him."

"Unless Blanco and Pando have been concealing the good qualities of their fighting men, and thus have deceived us to lead us on, it is my opinion that in the first engagement our troops will make it plain that in an open field or even protected by works the men of the United States forces will outmatch them. Our men will prove so superior that we will wonder very soon why Shafter wanted as many as 15,000 troops to capture Santiago and clean out the east end of the island."

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CAIMANERA TO BE BURNED

STREETS FILLED WITH STRAW SATURATED WITH OIL

Spanish Gunboat to Be Blown Up Rather Than Let It Be Captured by Americans—Terrible State of Affairs in the Cuban City—Natives and Soldiers Starving—Spanish Ready to Surrender.

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THE GUANTANAMO, June 18 (via Kingston, Jamaica, June 19).—Cuba scouts report today that the inhabitants of Caimanera have strewn the streets with straw and oil with the intention of destroying the city and fleeing to the hills.

Caimanera lies four miles up the bay from Camp McCalla, under the guns of the American ships, and the situation is desperate. Starving and famished, convinced of the ultimate triumph of the American arms, the people are believed to have determined to leave their houses in ashes behind them, and seek safety in the mountains of the north. The scouts declare that every building of the town is being rapidly prepared for the torch.

The situation of the besieged is a fearful one. The people are eating horses and mules and are scouring the hills for fruits and herbs. Occasionally brief bombardments by the American fleet leave the helpless citizens terror-stricken, no preparations for defense being made.

It is also stated that the Spanish gunboat at Caimanera has been loaded with inflammables and will be burned with the city, her commander declaring that she will never become an American prize.

The scouts also say that the Spanish soldiers are in almost complete a state of panic as the civilians, and that they could easily be induced to surrender. Some of the prisoners taken by the marines also say they believe the Spanish troops are on the verge of surrender, owing to the lack of food.

READY FOR ATTACK.

Capt. McCalla, of the cruiser Marblehead, and Lieut. Col. Huntington, in command of the marines, are not so sure, however, of the reported Spanish rout. They received information yesterday that a general attack by a force of 3,500 Spanish soldiers and guerrillas on Camp McCalla is contemplated within a night or two. Every preparation was made last night for an expected assault. Last night the hills about the marine camp were brilliant under the rays of the searchlights of the Marblehead, Dolphin and Scorpion, and the marines were lying in the rifle pits, at the guns, ready and anxious for battle, but the night passed without the firing of a shot.

The same careful watch was exercised today, as Commander McCalla is convinced that an attack is likely to occur at any moment.

The Iowa, Capt. Evans, joined the fleet here this morning, and later Admiral Sampson came on in the flagship to inspect the fortifications and confer with Commander McCalla and Lieut. Col. Huntington.

The coast in the vicinity of Guantanamo is dotted with bright-hued Cuban flags. Numerous camps of the insurgents, which have been established along the beach between Santiago and this place, are used by the admiral as a means of communication with the Cubans in the interior.

PORT SHELLED.

There was a brief bombardment of the blockhouse up the bay by the battleship Oregon during the afternoon, and it is thought during the fight that at least a number of Spaniards were killed. Scouting parties report that the blockhouse was completely destroyed, but that they were unable to discover any bodies, the remains of the soldiers who had been killed probably having been carried off by their comrades.

Late this afternoon the flagship New York returned to the fleet off Santiago de Cuba.

The marines are growing very restless, owing to the delay in the arrival of the reinforcements of troops, but it is generally believed here today that the transports will reach Santiago not later than Monday.

Gen. Perea, who is in command of the Spanish forces here, is undoubtedly desperate in regard to obtaining food for his men. The prisoners who have been captured appear to have been ill-fed and are apparently indifferent to their fate.

MORE SPANIARDS CAPTURED.

Another body of Spaniards was captured yesterday by Ensign A. A. Pratt, of the Marblehead. While cruising in a steam launch outside the bay, he picked up a fifty-foot sloop containing a Spanish captain, by the name of Torres, and four sailors.

FOOD SMUGGLED TO HAVANA.

Three blockade runners succeed in passing American fleet.

Copyright by the Associated Press.

OFF SANTIAGO DE CUBA, Saturday, June 18 (via Kingston, Jamaica, June 19, 2 p. m.).—Three large cargoes of supplies are known to have run the blockade already, and great quantities of food are smuggled to Havana by way of the Isle of Pines, Cienfuegos and other points on the southwest coast having direct railroad communication with the capital.

It is believed, however, that nothing reaches Santiago from any of those points.

The auxiliary cruisers Yankee and Yosemite are now scouting for the Spanish steamer Purissima Concepcion, which left Kingston on Thursday morning, flying the Spanish flag, with food and ammunition for Cuba.

MANILA'S FALL REPORTED.

Believed in Madrid that Spanish Have Capitulated.

P. A. R. The Madrid correspondent of the Temps says that it is reported there that Manila has capitulated, though the ministers have not received any news to that effect.

The correspondent also says that Senor Romero Ghon, the minister of colonies, states that if Governor General Augustin has made over his power to Gen. Sanderes to govern Manila, Gov. Sanderes will attempt a sortie.

SEIZING PACIFIC SHIPS

GOVERNMENT DETERMINED TO SECURE TRANSPORTS

Steamers Being Impressed for Service With the Philippine Expedition, Even Where Such Action Cripples the Lines to Which They Belong—The Monadnock Nearly Ready to Sail for the Orient.

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., June 19.—The government has taken a firm stand toward securing transports for the troops for Manila, and from this time forth impression will be the rule until enough vessels have been secured to carry the army to the Philippines.

The Pacific Mail company's steamer Newport has been pressed. This makes six vessels owned by the Pacific Mail company which are in the service of the government. The Peru is due from the Orient on June 24, and the City of Rio de Janeiro follows her on July 5. Both steamers will probably be taken by the government, although their impressment will leave the Pacific Mail

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