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FOR ANNEXATION
Argument Used By Senator Lodge on the Subject.

ISLANDS NEEDED BY AMERICA
Would Be Valuable as Base of Supplies for Operations in the East.

NEW YORK, May 2.—The Herald's Washington correspondent telegraphs: Rear Admiral Dewey's gallant achievements of yesterday and the able and courageous support given him by the officers and men of his fleet render it imperative that the Government should not hesitate a moment to send supplies to him by the fleetest ships that sail out of San Francisco. This is no time to speculate what eastern ports may be open to our ships or indulge in "what might have been" discussions in the event of the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands. The prompt and vigorous action of Rear Admiral Dewey in front of the Spanish fleet inspired the Secretary of the Navy to take immediate measure to relieve our fleet in the Pacific Ocean of any embarrassment it might feel for want of coal.

Accordingly, orders were telegraphed to San Francisco this morning for the Government authorities to select two of the swiftest ships at that port, load them with coal and dispatch them at once to the relief Admiral Dewey's fleet.

It was during the consideration of this subject that the question of annexing Hawaii forced itself to the front. Senator Lodge of Massachusetts, Senator Frye of Maine and Senator Gray of Delaware, three of the ablest and best-informed members of the Committee on Foreign Relations, were at the Navy Department and discussed the proposition with Secretary Long. Senator Lodge said he regretted very much the failure of the United States to annex Hawaii several years ago.

"We never needed it as much as we need it today," added the Massachusetts Senator, with great earnestness. "It would be an invaluable piece of property at this moment and to my opinion the United States should not hesitate a moment longer about accepting the generous and thoroughly business-like proposition of the Hawaiian Government.

"Some of the wise men of this generation," continued Senator Lodge, "were shrewd enough to appreciate the necessity of the acquisition of Hawaii by the United States. If our people who were opposed to annexation would throw aside political and personal considerations and look at the situation from an international standpoint and as a plain, practical, business proposition they would insist on the immediate ratification of the treaty now pending before the Senate. Take existing conditions into consideration and any reasonable man will be struck at once with the importance of the United States having a base of supplies in the Pacific Ocean. Here is our gallant Asiatic squadron fighting successfully to uphold the national standard in that far away eastern country. We have no means of knowing at the present moment what injuries our ships and crews have sustained in yesterday's conflict. We are also in the dark as to the supply of coal the fleet has at its disposal. With all foreign ports closed against us our only recourse is to ship a coal supply from San Francisco.

"How different would be the conditions if Hawaii had been annexed to the United States before this war with Spain came on. With cable communication between Hawaii and San Francisco we could relieve Rear Admiral Dewey's fleet from any embarrassment it may be subjected to for want of coal. Consider the difference in the number of days it takes to go from San Francisco to Manila and that Hawaii is more than half way between those points, and it is at once apparent that Hawaii would be of inestimable value as part of United States territory."

the Call says that the proposition to take the Islands has met with opposition in the Senate, and that in consequence it is probable there will be no further agitation until the opposition changes heart.

Flagship Olympia.
The U. S. F. S. Olympia, which carries the flag of Commodore Dewey in Manila harbor, was built at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco. She was billeted for a stay in this port in the fall of 1895, but remained outside a week. This was on account of the cholera ashore. A special basin, 33 feet of water at low tide, had been made in naval row here for the Olympia. Later it was thought that the Oregon would occupy this berth. Events are shaping now so that the Olympia will most likely come back here and finally use the basin made for her three years ago.

On the Bennington
Officers and men of the U. S. Gunboat Bennington, now in her war paint in this harbor are at a tension. They were both interested and excited by the news of fighting in the Philippines. All were sorry that the gunboat had not been ordered to the Asiatic squadron with the cruiser Baltimore. The feelings of patriotism and desire to act run high. The fervent hope aboard the Bennington is that she will have orders very soon now to proceed either direct to Manila or to port at Hong Kong. The search lights of the gunboat were being tested again last night.

Has His Cigars Now.
As details of the fight in Manila harbor have not been received all Honolulu is in suspense as to how the men and ships so well known here behaved. Of course it can be taken for granted that each officer and man gave a good account of himself. Capt. Dyer, of the Baltimore, who has a record as fighting man, was very anxious for the fray when he took the cruiser out of this port only a few weeks ago. The captain was getting his personal supplies up town a few days before sailing. He is quite a smoker, but remarked that he would take along only a few Manila cigars, as he expected to get them right from the factory soon.

Only Meager Advices.
The Government had recourse to the newspapers for most of its war and annexation news. Mr. Hatch had written from Washington, but had not sent a telegram. There was nothing from Consul-General Wilder at San Francisco. Mr. Thurston did not write to any member of the Government. Neither did Mr. Castle, Secretary of the legation at Washington.

To a friend here, Mr. Thurston sent a note which included the statement that the annexation matter was likely to be taken up at any time at the instigation or suggestion of the administration. In a private letter, Consul-General Wilder said that it was the opinion in San Francisco that Hawaii would be doing decidedly the wrong thing if she proclaimed neutrality.

Col. Claus Spreckels.
News comes by the Zealandia that at one time in San Francisco two weeks ago the death of Col. Claus Spreckels was announced. It was heralded on the bulletin boards and extended obituaries were being prepared for publication. Even the flag on the Call building was placed at half-mast. The facts were that the sugar king had been ailing slightly at his ranch for some days. He came to the city for treatment, when it was decided that an operation, for carbuncle on the back, was necessary. So soon as the knife had been applied the report went aboard that while the operation had been successful the veteran had been killed by the shock. This story was soon denied by the man most interested. Colonel Spreckels will be confined to his home about a month.

DEPENDABLE BARGAINS.
Now that the stock of the fire sale is out of the way, L. B. Kerr will turn over a new leaf and offer to the trade a personally selected stock of beautiful dry goods at prices with prices attacked which competition can not touch.

The American Legation at Constantinople has received more than 2,000 offers of volunteers for the American Navy, chiefly Greeks, who all declare themselves ready to pay their fare to the United States.

MANILA HARBOR SEES TERRIBLE CONFLICT

Dewey's Squadron Almost Annihilates Spain's Entire Naval Forces in the Philippines.

Terrific Cannonading for Nearly Two Hours—Movements in Atlantic Uncertain—More Prizes of War.

LONDON, May 1.—The Asiatic squadron of the United States, Commodore Dewey commanding, to-day engaged and completely defeated the Asiatic squadron of Spain in the harbor of Manila in the Philippine Islands. All the news of the great naval battle thus far received is coming from Spanish sources. This shows conclusively that Manila has not yet been taken by the American forces and that the cable lines are still under the control of Spain.

From the fact that even the advices received from Madrid show that the American warships fared best, there is hardly any doubt that when complete details are obtainable it will be learned that it was a crushing defeat for Spain.

Reports of the battle thus far are coming in piecemeal. During the two engagements that took place Commodore Montijo, commanding the Spanish fleet, lost three of his largest ships. His flagship, the armored cruiser Maria Reina Christina, and the armored cruiser Castilla were burned, and the cruiser Don Juan de Austria was blown up. Several other Spanish vessels were badly damaged.

Under the protection of the guns of their fortifications the Spanish warships opened fire on the American fleet. For several hours the harbor resounded with the roar of guns, the crashing of steel timbers and the shrieks and groans of the wounded. Thick clouds of smoke at times almost obscured the opposing fleets from each other.

A well-directed shot reached the iron cruiser Don Juan de Austria, a vessel of 1100 tons. A terrific explosion followed and the ship was blown up.

All the time during the first engagement the American ships were under way, their maneuvering being intended to render the marksmanship of Spanish gunners less effective.

There was a heavy loss of life among the Spanish. Captain Cardase, commanding the Maria Cristina, was killed. Commodore Montijo, commanding the fleet, shifted his flag from the Maria Cristina to the Isla de Cuba, a much smaller steel protected cruiser, just before the Cristina sank.

The blowing up of the Don Juan de Austria was attended by a great loss of life among the crew, her commander also being killed.

Commodore Dewey's squadron, leaving Subig Bay, a few miles from Manila, about 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, proceeded toward Manila. Under the cover of darkness he entered the harbor of Manila, the batteries located there announcing his arrival.

Both fleets lined up for battle at daybreak—about 5 o'clock this morning. The guns of the American warships began firing on the fortress of Cavite and the arsenal of Manila.

The American squadron, about 9 o'clock drew off to the east side of the bay and took refuge behind some foreign vessels. The ships had evidently suffered considerable damage.

After they had made some hasty repairs they returned to the conflict. During this engagement the guns of Cavite maintained a steadier and stronger fire upon Commodore Dewey's ships than in the first encounter, but the American guns were braced with telling effect. As the smoke lifted it was seen that the flagship Maria Reina Christina was on fire. The vessel was completely burned.

In the interval between the two engagements Commodore Montijo moved his flag from the Cristina to the smaller cruiser Isla de Cuba. To the fact that he made this change he doubtless owes his life.

The cruiser Castilla, next to the largest and most powerful of the Spanish squadron, was also burned. The cruiser Don Antonio de Ulloa and the Mindanao were also badly damaged in the encounter.

That the American squadron received severe damage in the encounter cannot be doubted. Early reports had it that five of Commodore Dewey's fleet had been sunk. Later advices from Madrid put the number at two. I have been able to ascertain nothing more definite than this, but I consider it highly significant that the latest advices I have received from Madrid and Lisbon make no mention of an American being destroyed. There were, undoubtedly, heavy losses in men on both sides.

One apparently trustworthy report states that the Spanish had 200 killed and 400 wounded. Trustworthy details of the American loss of life will hardly be obtainable until Commodore Dewey has taken Manila or has sent a vessel with dispatches to Hongkong.

(Continued on page two).