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VOL. III No. 205. BRYAN, TEXAS, THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 28, 1898. Price 5 cents.

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SPAIN IS LOOKING NOW FOR PEACE.

Madrid Takes Steps to Bring to an End Hostilities With the United States.

NO TERMS HAVE YET BEEN MADE.

The Proposition Came Through the French Ambassador, and Is Only General In Nature.

NO MIDDLE MAN IS IN THE DEAL.

Spain Wants to Deal Direct With This Government—The President Has Taken the Matter Under Consideration.

Washington, July 26.—The Spanish government has sued for peace, not indirectly through the great powers of Europe, but by a direct appeal to President McKinley. The proposition was formally submitted to the president at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon by the French ambassador, M. Jules Cambon, who had received instructions from the foreign office at Paris to deliver to the United States government the tender of peace formulated by the Spanish ministry. At the conclusion of the conference between the president and the French ambassador the following official statement was issued from the White House:

"The French ambassador, on behalf of the government of Spain and by direction of the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, presented to the president at the White House, a message from the Spanish government looking to the termination of the war and the settlement of terms of peace."

This was the only official statement made public, but it sufficed to put at rest all conjecture and to make clear and definite that at least Spain had taken the initiative toward peace. Although peace rumors have been current almost daily heretofore since the war began not one of them had the shadow of foundation and until the French ambassador received instructions from Paris late Monday night.

The Spanish proposition submitted by the ambassador acting for the Spanish government was quite general in terms, and was confined to the one essential point of an earnest plea that negotiations be opened for the purpose of terminating the war and arriving at terms of peace. The communication of the Spanish government did not suggest any specific terms of peace, nor was any reference made to Cuba, the Philippines, Porto Rico or other Spanish possessions. The evident purpose of the Madrid authorities was to first learn whether the United States would treat on the subject of peace, and after that to take up some terms as the two parties might suggest. Neither was there any suggestion from the Spanish government that an armistice be established pending the peace negotiations. It seemed natural, however, that the proposition that formal peace negotiations be entered upon that pending their conclusion a cessation of hostilities would occur.

In conversation which followed the reading of the proposition neither the president nor the ambassador entered upon the question of terms of peace. The instructions of the ambassador had confined him to the one essential point of opening peace negotiations, and it was evident that the president desired to consider the proposition at this moment before giving any definite reply. It was finally determined that the president would consult the members of his cabinet concerning the proposition and after a decision had been arrived at M. Cambon would then be invited to the White House for a further conference and for a final answer from the United States government. Before the call closed a brief official memorandum was agreed upon in order to set at rest misleading conjectures and to give to the public information on a subject which had advanced beyond the point where diplomatic reserve was essential.

When the president will submit the Spanish proposition to the cabinet has not yet been announced. The call of the ambassador was two hours after the cabinet meeting had closed.

Late in the afternoon and evening the president conferred with most of the members of the cabinet and the Spanish proposition was throughly canvassed.

The conference of Secretaries Alger, Bliss and Wilson and Postmaster General Smith with President McKinley lasted until nearly midnight, but no conclusion was reached.

DENIALS MADE AT MADRID.

No One Seems to Take the Responsibility of Peace Propositions.

Madrid, July 27.—The government denies that the cabinet council has occupied itself with the question of peace, although Senor Gamazo, minister of public instruction and public works, made a long speech on the subject.

Senor Sagasta denies the existence of official peace negotiations, but Duke Almodovar de Rio, minister of foreign affairs, says negotiations of a private character have been opened, due to private initiative.

The council discussed the American landing in Porto Rico and its consequences.

Nothing new was announced with reference to the situation in Cuba or the Philippines.

THE ANSWER TO SPAIN'S PEACE TERMS.

President Will Not Grant an Armistice Until Spanish Government Is Ready to Talk Peace.

Washington, July 27.—By tomorrow the government will have determined and communicated to the French ambassador just what form the steps leading towards peace it shall take. It is likely that if the Spanish government is really in earnest and desires peace, our government will consent to an armistice as a preliminary step. But, it can be stated positively that the president is determined to lose no ground through Spanish diplomacy. The armstice, if granted, will be conditioned upon the most binding pledges that it is to be followed by a treaty of peace.

Moreover, the preliminary agreement that provides for an armistice must constitute in itself an undertaking on the part of Spain to submit certain broad conditions to be imposed by the United States as a basis of peace. Military operations are to go steadily forward so far as the United States is concerned until negotiations have advanced much further than at present. They are subject to interruption at any moment by an armistice, but it must be said that this surely is expected immediately.

It is realized when the Spanish government learns of the extent of the demands made by the United States the first effect will be to induce a reflex movement, which in turn will result in the continuation of active hostilities for a time. This time it is expected will be brief—only so long as it is necessary for Miles to completely invest San Juan. That at that stroke it is thought it will bring the Spanish government to a sense of its hopelessness in further resistance. Military experts allow two weeks as a maximum period necessary for General Miles to secure this.

DID NOT HINT AT AN ARMISTICE.

Spain Can Get Peace by Surrendering Cuba and Porto Rico and Dictation as to Philippines.

New York, July 27.—A special to The Tribune from Washington says:

It is not believed that the French ambassador included in his representations to the president the hint that the declaration of an armstice would be agreeable to Spain while overtures for peace were being considered. Such a request would have given color of insincerity to the Madrid government's proposals. Certainly the administration could not be expected to listen with patience or toleration to a proposal for an armstice, which would cut short the elaborately planned and highly promising campaign just begun in Porto Rico, and would even renew temporarily Spain's lease of power in Manilla, now momentarily threatened with capture by the American forces in the Philippines.

To M. Cambon's representations President McKinley is understood to have replied that the United States would be glad to enter upon peace negotiations on the understanding that Spain is to abandon her sovereignty over both Cuba and Porto Rico and to acknowledge this country's right to shape the future destiny of the Philippine group. On these terms peace could easily and promptly be restored. M. Cambon was authorized of course to make no comment on the conditions suggested by the administration and simply undertook to transmit them through his home government to the cabinet at Madrid.

GLAD PEACE IS ON.

Satisfaction Is Expressed In Europe That Spain Has Waked Up.

London, July 27.—The liveliest satisfaction is expressed in all quarters and in the newspapers throughout Europe the fact that Spain has at last done the right thing, for the first time during the war, and peace is looked upon as being within a measureable distance. It is taken for granted that the opening of negotiations implies a cessation of hostilities. It is believed here that the United States was unofficially approached and given a general idea of the conditions she would insist on before M. Gambon, the French ambassador at Washington, presented his note and that formal negotiations will consist chiefly of formulations of the terms already practically settled.

Notified Peace Is on Foot.

Paris, July 27.—The government of France has notified all the French embassies of the fact that Spain has made proposals through M. Cambon, the French ambassador at Washington, for peace with the United States.

Denies Peace Negotiations.

Madrid, July 27.—The government denies that it has been occupied with the question of peace. Sagasta contradicts the statement that official negotiations are in progress; but the foreign office announces that the negotiations are due to private initiative proceedings.

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