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Dismemberment of China stares the powers in the face. They have their hands full, to use a familiar expression. Because matters have been going along without a hostile collision does not necessarily imply that an outbreak will be avoided before the end of the game of grab. The vastness of the territory involved of itself invests the situation with the element of indefiniteness, both as to what will be satisfactory to each nation concerned, and as to what will satisfy all after the partition or occupation schemes are measurably outlined.

DEBTS OF THE WORLD.

Total Approximates £5,830,000,000; Interest, £226,000,000

The debts of the world approximate £5,830,000,000. It was estimated just twenty years ago that the eighteen largest national debts amounted in the aggregate to £4,553,000,000. A sum of £197,000,000 was allowed for the numerous minor borrowers; and this brought the total indebtedness to about £4,750,000,000, which means that there has been an increase in the two decades of as much as £1,080,000,000. There have been a few noteworthy decreases—thus, the debt of Great Britain has gone down from £780,000,000 in 1876 to £645,000,000; that on the United States from £440,000,000 to £249,000,000, and that of Germany from £200,000,000 to £85,000,000. But the great majority of the old borrowers have been true to human weakness, and have increased their obligations; while a host of smaller peoples have appeared upon the scene. France, an easy first in regard to the aggregate, is also first in regard to the increase, for whereas its debt in 1876 was the equivalent of £900,000,000, last year it was equal to £1,280,000,000—a rise of £380,000,000. Austria-Hungary is second to France in this particular with an increase of £222,400,000; Russia is third with an increase of £160,000,000; and Italy fourth with an increase of £124,000,000. The fluctuations in the principal debts in the periods under discussion are shown in the following table, from which the millions (000,000) are omitted:

	1876.	1896.	Inc.	Dec.
France	£900	£1,280	£380	£...
Great Britain	780	645	....	135
United States	440	249	....	191
Italy	390	514	124	....
Austria-Hungary	382	605	224	....
Spain	375	353	....	22
Russia	340	500	160	....
Germany	200	85	....	115
Turkey	135	170	35	....
India	120	125	....	5
Brazil	82	121	39	....
Netherlands	80	93	13	....
Egypt	75	97	22	....
Portugal	69	148	79	....
Mexico	63	23	....	40
Australasia	46	215	169	....
Belgium	36	91	55	....
Canada	30	63	33	....
Totals	£4,553	£5,378	£1,333	£508
Net increase			£825,000,000	

The order of importance of twenty years ago has naturally not been maintained. Austria-Hungary (the special debts of each and the common debt of both) has gone up from fifth to third; Italy is still fourth, Russia is fifth instead of seventh and Australasia is eighth instead of sixteenth. Canada, though its indebtedness has increased very materially, now ranks after Argentina, with £74,000,000, and is only just ahead of Japan, with £60,000,000. Mexico, it may be well to observe, would not show creditably, as the mere figures indicate, if we went into details of the way in which the reduction of debt has been effected. Among the minor countries whose debts are interesting are miscellaneous British possessions, with £47,000,000; Roumania, with a similar total; Greece, with £33,000,000; Sweden and Norway, £25,000,000; Uruguay, with £22,000,000; Servia, with £15,000,000, and Denmark, with £11,500,000.

The obligations of the nations which are not included in the above list amount approximately to £452,000,000, which, added to the sum stated in the table, brings the world's total to £5,830,000,000. On this enormous amount of money something like £220,000,000 is paid annually in the way of interest. Twenty years ago the estimated payment in this direction was £200,000,000 and the increase of over £1,000,000,000 is attributable to the growing cheapness of money, whereby all nations of good credit may secure loans on far more favorable terms than in 1876. As may readily be imagined, France pays out the largest sum annually in interest, and the average runs to about £1 per head of the population, against 12s. in Great Britain, 15s. in Italy, 15s. in Austria-Hungary, 13s. in Spain, 1s. 9d. in the United States and 1s. 4d. in Germany.—Pall Mall Gazette.

On Dangerous Ground.

Dick—I am convinced now that the funny men are right when they say a woman can't understand a joke.

Tom—Why, what's happened?

Dick—I called on Mrs. Dartleigh—that sprightly little widow, you know—last night and just in a joking way proposed to her.

Tom—Yes?

Dick—Well, it looks now as if I will have to furnish a very elaborate diagram to get her to see through it.—Cleveland Leader.

Short-Winded Orators.

Many a man, apparently brim full of a speech, has risen to address an assembly, only to be deserted by a treacherous memory before the preliminary words were spoken. Still, these crude attempts answer a purpose, says Tit-Bits, and the unsuccessful and short-winded orators have the consolation of knowing that they stand in very good company, as many eminent men have done no better at some period of their career. The writer knows a gentleman who once came forward for municipal honors, and when the eventful evening arrived that he had to address the electors, all he could manage to say was, "Ladies and gentlemen, you know me—vote for me," and then he had to sit down and listen to the laughter and criticism of the audience. Perhaps the electors knew him, but somehow or other they did not vote for him, and the other candidates left him stranded, high and dry, on the day of the poll. A story is told of a would-be orator who used to go regularly into a garden well studded with cabbages, where he rolled out his sentences, and fancied himself before an audience, even going so far as to address the green heads as "gentlemen." After a course of a few weeks of this kind of training he considered himself qualified to appear before an assembly. He did so, but after speaking a dozen words he became dumb, and all he could blurt out was, "Gentlemen, I now clearly see you are not cabbages." The Earl of Rochester, distinguished during the reign of Charles II., once attempted to make a speech in the House of Lords, and it proved to be a short and singular one. "My lords," he said, "I rise this time—my lords, I divide my discourse into four branches." Here he stopped for some time, but at length added, "My lords, if ever I rise again in this house I give you leave to cut me off, root and branch, forever." Such a speech, naturally, caused much astonishment.

The Time Niagara Dried Up.

It seems almost incredible that at one time in its history the greatest and most wonderful waterfall in the world actually ran dry. Nevertheless, it is an established fact that this occurred on March 29, 1848, and for a few hours scarcely any water passed over Niagara Falls. The winter of that year had been an exceptionally severe one, and ice of unusual thickness had formed on Lake Erie. The warm spring rains loosened this congealed mass, and on the day in question a brisk east wind drove the ice far up into the lake. About sunset the wind suddenly veered round and blew a heavy gale from the west. This naturally turned the ice in its course, and, bringing it down to the mouth of the Niagara River, piled it up in a solid, impenetrable wall.

So closely was it packed and so great was its force that in a short time the outlet to the lake was completely choked up, and little or no water could possibly escape. In a very short space of time the water below this frozen barrier passed over the falls, and the next morning the people living in the neighborhood were treated to a most extraordinary spectacle. The roaring tumbling rapids above the falls were almost obliterated, and nothing but the cold, black rocks were visible in all directions. The news quickly spread, and crowds of spectators flocked to view the scene, the banks on each side of the river being lined with people during the whole day. At last there was a break in the ice. It was released from its restraint, the pent-up wall of water rushed downward, and Niagara was itself again.

Where the Old Money Goes.

In the United States Bureau of Engraving and Printing at Washington hundreds of thousands of dollars in torn and soiled bills are destroyed each day. The money comes from banks in all parts of the country, is counted by an expert, is then cut in two, lengthwise, and each half is recounted by different persons. The money is then reduced to a pulp by disintegrating chemicals, the bills being thrown into a large revolving cylinder partially filled with the chemicals. This process is called maceration, and the pulp so obtained is pressed into sheets resembling white cardboard and is then sold for about $40 per ton. In this manner the government pays the expense of maceration. The doors to the maceration rooms are carefully guarded and can be entered only by three officials who have keys.

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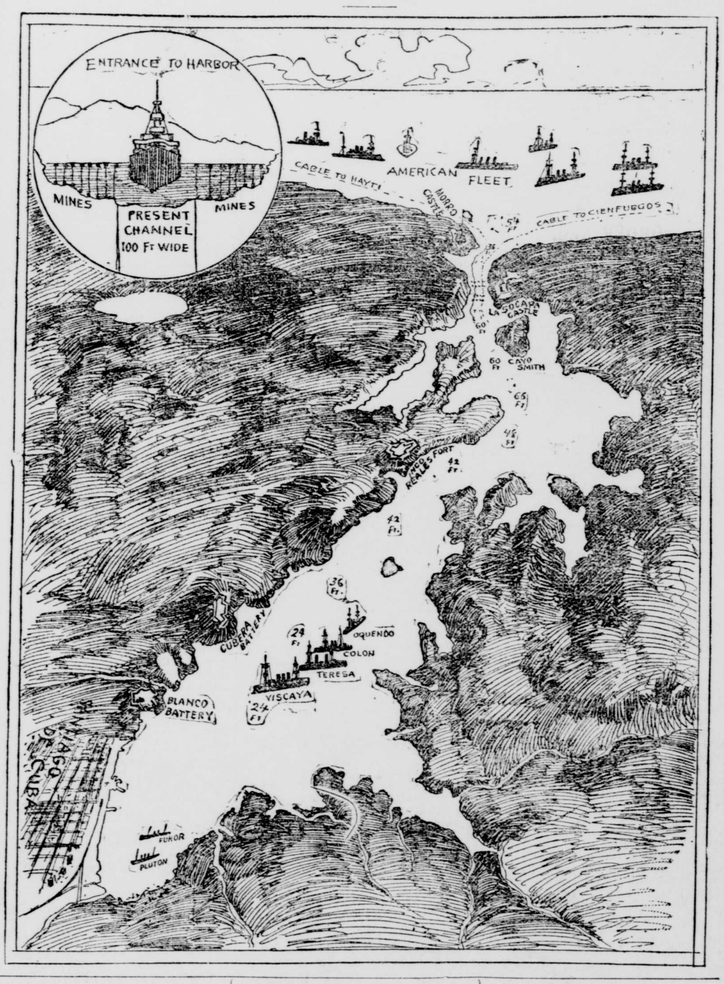
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A GLIMPSE OF SANTIAGO HARBOR, SHOWING THE POSITION OF ADMIRAL SAMPSON'S AND CERVERA'S FLEET.



THREW THE TOWN IN PANIC.

Fire From Warships Before Caimanera Was Accurate.

At half-past five Wednesday morning five ships of the American squadron opened a heavy bombardment on the fortifications of the town of Caimanera. There was a hail of bombs in the bay, striking and demolishing many houses beyond the fortifications.

On the Spanish side the artillery replied vigorously, maintaining for some time a stout resistance. The fire from the warships did not slacken for an instant. It was regular and carefully directed, and a great majority of the shots proved effective.

The Spaniards were forced to abandon their positions on the shore and retreat to the town of Caimanera proper. It is supposed that later they fled from that position also, with the residents of the town.

The Americans forced the entrance of the bay of Guantanamo, and, according to the latest advices from Caimanera, it was expected that they would make an effort to land forces. Measures to prevent a landing, if possible, have been taken by the Spaniards. The American fleet was still maintaining its position at last reports.

The Spanish at Santiago and Caimanera are preparing for a final desperate struggle. They are determined to resist the assault of the Americans to the last extremity. The commander of the district issued orders to burn Caimanera before yielding it into the hands of the Americans.

Cable communication with Cuba, which had been interrupted, is partly restored, but it is still irregular.

The bombardment destroyed a house which sheltered the shore connections of the French cable line at Caimanera. The cables uniting the main cable with the office at Caimanera and the town of Caimanera with Santiago were cut. It is also believed that the cable leading out of Santiago is cut. Even before the cables in Guantanamo bay had been injured so that they could not be worked, the operators at the Caimanera station were forced to flee by the fire of the American warships.

Caimanera is a fort of Cuba on the Cumberland harbor, or Bay of Guantanamo. It is connected by railway with Guantanamo, fifteen miles distant, of which place it is the port. Vessels of any draught can enter the harbor, and those of fourteen feet can lie at the wharf and receive their lading from the railway cars.

The town of Guantanamo is surrounded by coffee and sugar estates. It is about 40 miles east of Santiago.

ANGLO-CHINESE CONVENTION.

Great Britain Secures Extension of Her Hongkong Territory.

The Peking correspondent of the London Times says:

"The Anglo-Chinese convention, just signed, leaves to England an extension of the boundaries of Hongkong, including Kou-Lung, of altogether 200 square miles.

"Japan, under the protocol of October, 1896, demands that settlements be established forthwith for the exclusive use of the Japanese at Fu-Chau, Wu-Sung, Sha-Shi, Fu-Ning, Yo-Chou, and Ching-Wang-Tao."

Preparing for the Sale of Bonds.

Preparations have been completed at the Treasury Department to invite offers for the bonds for carrying on the war with Spain as soon as the bonds are authorized by Congress. It is the present intention to offer $2 0,000,000 in bonds at once, reserving the right to issue an additional $1,000,000 if an additional issue becomes necessary. Thirty days probably will be given for receiving bids before the loan is allotted. Allotments will be made at once, however, for the full amount of all bids for $1,0 0 or less. It is desired to give the preference to small bidders.

YELLOW FEVER BREAKS OUT.

Seven Cases Reported in the Town of McHenry, Miss.

Gen. J. F. Hunter, Secretary of the Mississippi State Board of Health, gave the press the following statement:

"It having been reported to me by Drs. Haralson and Folkes, Sanitary Inspector of this board, that seven cases of yellow fever exist at McHenry, Miss., I hereby declare the town of McHenry in quarantine, under charge of Dr. Haralson, who will observe the quarantine and sanitary rules and regulations adopted by this board.

J. F. HUNTER,
"Sec'y Miss. State Board of Health."

WARSHIPS SEEN OFF CUBA.

Alleged Spanish Fleet Sighted by an American Gunboat.

Officers of a monitor, which arrived at Key West from Havana, confirm the announcement that four strange warships, presumably Spanish, had been sighted by an American scout ship, off the northern coast of Cuba, near the eastern extremity of the island. It is conjectured that their intention is either to break the Havana blockade or intercept some of Shafter's transports.

The monitor's officers state that one of our small auxiliary boats spoken off Havana and just arrived from Cardenas, stated that a scout had seen four strange warships at St. Nicholas channel steaming westward.

The monitor's Captain instructed the auxiliary then to report the matter to Commodore Watson, on the Havana station. The flagship was then nearby, and the order was carried into effect at once.

The monitor was shortly signalled from the flagship to proceed without delay. She came into Key West just after noon, and brought dispatches from Commodore Watson to Commodore Remey.

Officers on board have seen no Spanish vessels, but are inclined to believe the auxiliary's report. When the auxiliary sighted the strangers darkness was falling, and she was unable to distingnish clearly, but affirm that the boats were white, with yellow funnels. One had fighting tops.

When signaled, the largest showed three colored lights, then put out all. As nearly as could be distinguished, the Spanish squadron was made up of a first class cruiser, two second class, and a torpedo-boat destroyer.

Some of the naval men at Key West believe the first-class cruiser and the destroyer are a detachment of Cervera's fleet, commanded by Captain Eulate, of the Vizcaya, although it was generally believed that all four of Cervera's big ships were at Santiago. The other two might be the Isabel II. and one of the other small Spanish ships which have been hovering around Porto Rico.

CAPT. PHILIP NOT KILLED.

Report as to the Captain of the Texas is Denied in Washington.

A cable dispatch from Madrid states that in the course of the recent cannonading at Santiago de Cuba Captain Philip, of the United States battle ship Texas, was killed by a Spanish shell. There is nothing in other dispatches from West Indian waters to substantiate this report.

Washington reports coming from Spanish sources and apparently originating in Madrid, have stated that Captain Philip, of the Texas, had been killed by a shell shot by the Spaniards. The President said that the report was undoubtedly untrue, as Admiral Sampson's official report stated that there were no casualities.

Cruiser Chicago Nearly Completed.

Work on the cruiser Chicago, at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, has been advanced so that she will be placed in dry dock this week. The foundations for her gunmounts have been put in place and she has been painted from the water line up. There is scarcely any doubt that the cruiser will be ready for active work by the end of the month.

ABOUT NOTED PEOPLE.

In an oratorical contest at the Idaho University for the Watkins medal, Jennie Hughes, the only colored student in the institution, was the winner.

The fortune left by Signor Nicolini, the husband of Patti, is estimated at over $200,000. It will be remembered that Patti refused to accept the legacy of $100,000 left her by the Signor.

The Hon. Hannis Taylor, ex-Minister from this country to Spain, is to address the graduating class of North Carolina University on the theme "America's Widening Destiny."

Mrs. Schuyler Crowninshield, whose stories of Cuban life were published under the title "Where the Trade Winds Blow," is the wife of Captain Crowninshield, U. S. N., who at one time commanded the Maine.

Lieut. Charles Young, the only colored officer in the United States Army, and the only one of the men of his race who ever passed through West Point, has been chosen major of a colored battalion of Ohio volunteer infantry.

General Wolseley, who is himself an Irishman, says that General Sir Herbert Kitchener, is an Irishman, and "the most rising soldier in Europe."

The Rev. John Aldis, the oldest of the Baptist ministers in England, has just celebrated his 90th birthday.

WORK ON NEW SHIPS.

Several Torpedo-boats Are Nearly Completed—The Big Battle-ships.

A Washington special says steady progress is making upon the ships under construction by the government at the several naval yards, as revealed by the monthly report from the various yards to Chief Constructor Hichborn. On the battle-ships, the Newport News people are ahead, having the Kearsarge and Kentucky 59 per cent. advanced toward completion, and the Illinois, 46 per cent. Cramp & Sons report the Alabama 53 per cent. along, and the Union Iron Iron Works have progressed 38 per cent. with the Wisconsin. Ten torpedo-boats are now actually under construction, and have been completed to the following extent:

The Rowan, 28-knotter, building at Moran Bros., Seattle, 38.5 per cent.

The Dahlgren, 30-knotter, building at the Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me., 73 per cent.

The T. A. M. Craven, 30-knotter, Bath Iron Works, Bath, Me., 50 per cent.

The Farragut, 30-knotter, Union Iron Works, San Francisco, 80 per cent.

The Davis and Fox, 22.5 knotters, Wolk & Zwicker, Portland, Ore., 88 and 82 per cent. respectively.

The Mackenzie, 20-knotter, Charles Hillman, Philadelphia, 99 per cent.

The Stringham, 30-knotter, Harlan & Hollingsworth, Wilmington, Del., 28 per cent.

The Goldsborough, 30-knotter, Wolf & Zwicker, 7 per cent.

The Bailey, 30-knotter, Gas Engine and Power Company, New Jersey, 2 1-2 per cent.

CAPTAIN GRIDLEY'S BODY.

To Be Cremated at Yokohama and Ashes Brought to America.

After much cabling, the Navy Department has finally received information from Surgeon Anderson, in charge of the United States Hospital at Yokohama, that the remains of Captain Gridley, after being embalmed and delivered on board the Coptic, which sails for San Francisco, had been finally delivered to Mr. Copman for cremation, in accordance with request of Captain Gridley's widow. The department was unable to insure the cremation of Captain Gridley's remains in time to sail on the Coptic, and, as nothing is known of the sailing hours, it is presumed that the ashes will not come on the Coptic, but on the next steamer, which sails two weeks hence. Prominent naval officers, including many on duty in the department, believe that the ashes will receive burial at Arlington, in the conspicuous section assigned to the remains of army and naval officers. As Captain Gridley was one of the first martyrs of the present war, it is certain that his remains would be assigned a conspicuous position, probably near the monument of Admiral Porter.

Would Like American Bonds.

The St. James Gazette says that an American war loan of $2 0,000,000 is to be issued during the coming week, and it adds that the hope is expressed here that a good portion of it will be offered in London, where it is confidently anticipated that the bonds will be partially taken up.

KILLED BY A TORPEDO.

Fatal Accident to Two Men Planting Harbor Defenses in St. John's River.

An explosion of dynamite occurred at St. John's Bluff, near the mouth of the St. John's river, Florida, killing two men, John J. O'Rourke and Edward Houston, seriously injuring Lieutenant Harts, United States Army and painfully wounding a stenographer named Barnham and a negro laborer.

O'Rourke was foreman for the Western Union Telegraph Company, in Jacksonvile, and Houston was in the employ of the government.

The two men were in a small building on a bluff testing some electrical appliances to be used for exploding submarine torpedoes in the river. O'Rourke connected the wires in the wrong manner and an explosion followed. Houston's body was blown into the air and nothing of it except scattered fragments of bloody flesh and bones could be found. The body of O'Rourke was not so badly mangled.

Reasons for Delaying Fleet.

It is the general belief in Gibraltar that the delay in the departure of the Cadiz squadron is really owing to the necessity of arming the auxiliary cruiser Havel, recently purchased indirectly from the North German Lloyd Steamship Company.

SILENCED THE GUNS.

Santiago's Big Batteries So Badly Damaged as to Be Almost Useless.

ARMY LEAVES KEY WEST.

Bombardment Lasted Three Hours, the Fleet Forming in Two Columns and Maintaining Fixed Stations--Spanish Gunnery Was Ineffective, and Indications Are that the Artillerists Fled From Their Guns--Morro Castle Not Fired on, But Was Hit by Stray Shots--Two Forts Destroyed.

A Washington special says:—The Navy Department received this dispatch from Admiral Sampson:

"Secretary of the Navy—Bombarded forts at Santiago 7.30 to 10 A. M. June 6th. Silenced works quickly without injury of any kind, though within 2,000 yards.

(Signed) SAMPSON.

SANTIAGO DE CUBA (via Kingston, Jamaica.) Special.—The American fleet Monday morning engaged the Spanish batteries, defending the entrance to the harbor of Santiago, and after a three hours' bombardment silenced nearly all the forts, destroyed some earthworks and rendered the Estrella and Cave batteries, two of the principal fortifications, useless.

The first line of the fleet formed in double column, six miles off Morro Castle, at 6 o'clock in the morning, and steamed slowly to a position three thousand yards off shore, the Brooklyn leading, followed by the Marblehead, Texas and Massachusetts. Then it turned westward. This line was commanded by Commodore Schley.

The second line, the New York leading, with New Orleans, Yankee, Iowa and Oregon, following in the order named, turned eastward. It was commanded by Admiral Sampson.

The Vixen and Suwanee were far out on the left flank, watching the riflemen on shore. The Dolphin and Porter did similar duty on the right flank.

The line, headed by the New York, attacked the new earthworks near Morro Castle The Brooklyn column took up a station opposite the Estrella and Catalina batteries and the new earthworks along the shore.

The Spanish batteries remained silent for some time. It is doubtful if the Spaniards were able to determine the character of the movement, owing to the dense fog and heavy rain.

Iowa Opens With a Center Shot.

Suddenly the Iowa fired a 12-inch shell which struck the base of the Estrella battery and tore up part of the works. Soon firing began from both Admiral Sampson's and Commodore Schley's columns, and a torrent of shells from the ships fell upon the Spanish works.

The Spaniards replied promptly, but their artillery work was poor and most of their shots went wide. Smoke settled around the ships in dense clouds, rendering accurate aiming difficult. There was no maneuvering of the fleet at first, the ships remaining at their original stations and firing steadily.

The squadrons were so close in shore that it was difficult for the American gunners to reach the batteries on the hilltops, nevertheless their firing was excellent.

Orders were issued to prevent firing on Morro Castle, as the American Admiral had been informed that Lieutenant Hobson and the other prisoners of the Merrimac were confined there. In spite of this several stray shots damaged Morro Castle.

Commodore Schley's line finally moved closer in shore, firing at shorter range. The Brooklyn and Texas caused wild havoc among the Spanish shore batteries, quickly silencing many of them.

While the larger ships were engaging the heavy batteries, the Suwanee and the Vixen closed with the small in-shore battery opposite them, raining rapid fire shots upon it and quickly putting the battery out of the fight.

The Brooklyn approached within eight hundred yards of the shore, and then the destruction caused by her guns and those of the Marblehead and Texas was awful. In a few minutes the woodwork of the Estrella fort was burning and the battery was silenced, firing no more during the engagement.

The New York and the New Orleans silenced the Cave battery in quick order and then shelled the earthworks higher up. Later the practice was not so accurate, owing to the elevation of the guns. Many of the shells, however, landed, and the Spanish gunners retired.

A short time after 9 o'clock the warships turned in order to permit the use of their port batteries. The firing then became a long reverberating crash of thunder, and the shells raked the Spanish batteries with terrible effect. Fire broke out in the Catalina fort and silenced the Spanish guns there.

The firing of the fleet continued until 10 o'clock, when the Spanish fire ceased entirely, and Admiral Sampson hoisted the "cease-firing" signal.

Generally, the fire of the fleet was destructive. Many of the earthworks were knocked to pieces, and the Estrella and Catalina fortifications were so damaged that it is questionable if they will ever be able to do any effective work during the war.

Throughout the engagement no American ship was hit and no Americans were injured. If the Spaniards stuck to their guns their loss must have been heavy.

Suspended From Duty For Three Years.

A Washington special says: Acting Secretary Allen has approved the sentence in the case of the court-martial which passed upon the charges against Civil Engineer A. C. Menocal. The officer was found guilty of negligence in connection with the construction of the big dry dock in the New York navy yard, and was sentenced to suspension from duty for three years on furlough pay. Nine of the ten members of the court martial recommended the exercise of clemency, but the department disregarded this recommendation.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

It is stated in dispatches from Panama that a revolution is gaining headway in Venezuela, several reverses having been suffered by the government forces.

There was a row in the French Chamber of Deputies over the election of M. Deschanel as president and a new ballot was ordered.

Miss Edith Stuyvesant Dresser and Mr. George W. Vanderbilt were married in the American Church at Paris.

Sir Adolph Chapleau, founder of the Canadian Federation, is dying.

At Cape Haytien there are rumors that President Heureaux, of Santo Domingo, has been assassinated and that the insurgents have triumphed.

Twenty Russian soldiers were killed by an uprising in Turkistan and many others wounded. It was the most serious reverse Russia has suffered in Asia in many years.

A party of Dominican revolutionists were captured at Monte Cristi, San Domingo, just as they landed from a ship from Hayti. They will likely be shot.

Documents proving the American citizenship of Dr. Cornelius Herz are on their way to this country to be used in a suit for $5,000,000 against the French government.

Fire caused about $20,000,000 loss at Peshawur, India, destroying 4,000 houses.

A Washington special says: Under command of Major General Shafter, the First Division of the United States Army sailed Sunday night from Key West for Santiago de Cuba to besiege and capture that town. The army transports—thirty in number—left Port Tampa Saturday. The convoying warships—believed to number between sixteen and nineteen—were ready for the voyage, and with this powerful force there is no longer reason for apprehension that the transports can be attacked successfully by any Spanish warships, even if such should have escaped the vigilant search of the naval commanders at Key West and off Havana.

It is believed in Washington that the sally out of Havana of three Spanish gunboats was intended to create the impression that they were prepared to go out to attack the transports. If so, the plan miscarried, for the craft were detected immediatly by Commodore Watson's cruisers and driven back pell-mell into Havana harbor under the protection of the guns of the shore batteries. Even if these boats had escaped they could have done no damage, for the size of the convoy furnished for the troop ships is sufficient to warrant the belief that they would have been speedily destroyed should they have had the courage to make an attack upon the fleet of American ships. The Spanish gunboats are not of formidable character, not one of them being the equal in power of the smallest of [illegible] American cruisers or even of such [illegible] the little Bancroft, which [illegible] General Shafter's flagship.

Arrangement of Convoys.

Every precaution has been taken by the government to insure the safety of the troops en route to Cuba. The Naval war Board was in session Sunday making the final preparations for the disposition of guard ships. The transports will be as closely together as safe navigation permit, and the warships will be disposed ahead, astern and on either flank. The fleetest scouting vessels will be thrown far out in advance of the transports, and in order to ensure against an attack from the rear some of these vessels, such as the St. Louis, perhaps, will linger far astern, ready to signal [illegible] the first sign of an [illegible].

The stately battleship Indiana will lead the procession of ships, which will be the most numerous gathered in American waters since the Civil War. It is not believed that they will be landed at Caimanera, the point on Guantanamo Bay, where the American flag now flies over the heads of Sampson's marines, as that place, while well adapted to serve as a naval base, and as a harbor of refuge for the American warships is not particularly well suited for the beginning of military operations.

The Porto Rican Expedition.

In ten days' time, unless unforseen obstacles are encountered, the movement upon Porto Rico will begin. The War Department has been in close communication by telegraph with General Miles at Tampa, and all the necessary instructions have been given to the commanding general for the preparation of the military forces to be used in this part of the campaign.

General Miles has, in turn, been consulting Generals Copplinger and Lee at Jacksonville, giving them necessary detailed instructions, and all is so near ready that were some essential supplies on hand the expedition could start within twenty-four hours. The Navy Department has been advised of the purpose of the army, and the war boat was making arrangements for the supply of the convoying fleet. This will be of a more formidable character than that which goes with the Santiago expedition, for the plans contemplate a joint attack upon the San Juan fortifications by the army and navy, and the fortifications are so powerful that heavily armored ships only can be sent against them at the beginning. Therefore, it is believed that Sampson's battleships will lead this fleet.

Now that Sampson has taken up a position ashore in Guantanamo Bay, it is expected at the Navy Department that he will be in direct communication with the department, which will greatly facilitate the combined operation of the navy and army. The cable which he cut just before landing the marines was buoyed and as soon as cable operators and instruments can be gotten over from Hayti the cable will be opened again.

A PROTECTORATE AT MANILA.

Filipinos at Singapore Wish for Freedom Under American Guardianship.

The Singapore correspondent of the London Times, says:

"The Filipinos in Singapore serenaded the United States consul-general, Mr. E. Spencer Pratt. Before the serenade they presented to him an address, thanking him for sending Aguinaldo to Admiral Dewey, congratulating Admiral Dewey and expressing a desire for the establishment of a native government under American protection.

"The spokesman deprecated a restoration of the islands to Spain or their transfer to any power, and expressed his confidence that the natives would prove their ability to govern themselves. The Filipinos then gave cheers for America, England and Admiral Dewey. Mr. Pratt responded, and presented to the spokesman an American flag amid great enthusiasm."

A Postoffice at Cavite Probable.

On account of the delay in the delivery of letters and the trouble the American consul at Hong Kong has in handling the mail, the Navy Department has come to the conclusion that it would be wise for a postal clerk to be sent to Cavite, in the Philippines, where a postoffice can be established. The matter has been referred to the Postoffice Department by the Navy Department, with the recommendation that this be done. It is expected that the Postmaster-General will adopt the recommendation, and that a postal clerk will accompany the next expedition to Manila.

A New Captain for the Puritan.

A Washington dispatch says: On account of the terrific strain and heat under which they have been laboring under in Cuban waters since the outbreak of the war, Captain Purnell F. Harrington, who for more than a year has been in command of the monitor Puritan, and Lieutenant-Commander W[illegible] command was the [illegible]had to Ma[illegible] t[illegible] Oc[illegible] ger[illegible] eru[illegible] ita[illegible]

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