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If Cuba were the only stake involved they would have surrendered it ere this, and struck a bargain by which the surrender might have been made with as little loss as possible. The impediment in the way there was the fear of a revolution at home which might be forced by men who would make the abandonment of Cuba the pretext for revolt.

When it became evident that this Government would insist upon the relinquishment of Cuba as the necessary condition of a settlement of that question the Spanish Minister of War declared that this would not be agreed to, and that war would be preferable, for it was "better to fight foreigners than Spaniards." There was the dread of revolution expressed, showing that Cuba was a secondary consideration. A short while afterwards the Minister of Marine declared that while the American navy might defeat Spanish warships it would never capture any, for rather than be captured Spanish crews would blow up their magazines. This was nonsense, but it was virtually a confession that he believed the Spanish navy was no match for the American navy and that on the test of strength it would be overcome. These were two members of the Spanish cabinet talking and the two who were most outspoken and uncompromising for war. Neither of them expects to hold Cuba.

On the departure of Minister Bernabe from Washington, one of the principal members of his suite was interviewed by a reporter with the understanding that the interview was for publication. He admitted that Cuba was lost to Spain, and that the Spanish fleets would prove no match for the American fleets, but, said he, your fleets will capture no Spanish ships for they will go to the bottom rather than surrender. He said he spoke thus after repeated conversations with high navy officers, and he referred to it as an illustration of the desperate resolve of the men who will take Spain's ships into battle.

This is simply the talk of desperation which sees defeat in advance and anticipates it. Men who feel this way may fight when they are cornered and can't help it, and they may fight valiantly, but they have no heart for a confessedly hopeless fight, and will not seek it or welcome it when it comes. A different feeling fills and a different spirit actuates the crews who man the ships of the United States, for they are eager for the conflict and have been ever since they were ordered to their post in Southern waters.

These Spaniards who talk this way confessed really more than they intended to, but they knew the fearful odds against which their country has to contend in a war with this country, even if their navy, and the crews who man it were equal in number and efficiency to ours. They have to sail across a vast expanse of sea to be in a position to defend the prize they are sent to defend. They are thousands of miles away from their base of supplies. They must have an abundant supply of both munitions of war and of coal, without both of which they would be as useless as so many logs floating on the ocean. After they have made their thirty-six hundred mile journey across the sea to the neighborhood of Havana, if they ever get there (which they never will), their coal supplies will be about exhausted, and then what will they do? There are no supplies on this side upon which they can draw, for England controls nearly all the coal in sight in the West Indies. Not so with the ships of the United States, for they are near to their own shores and their own stores to keep supplied with all they need.

This is the situation, and if the Spanish fleets were all that is claimed for them by the Spaniards, they are confronted by conditions that make any hope of success for them a forlorn one from the beginning. They cross the ocean not to save Cuba, but to save the Spanish crown to the boy king, if that may be done, to waste some powder, perhaps, if cornered, and return vanquished—if they may return.

MINOR MENTION.

During the excitement occasioned by the relations between the United States and Spain since the Cuban question became a prospective and positive war issue, the marked contrast between the American and the Spanish people has been frequently illustrated to the credit of the American people and to the discredit of the Spaniards. In Spain, following the delivery of the President's message in December, there were mob demonstrations showing the temper against this country; Americans were subjected to taunts and insults, and even the residences of our representatives had to be guarded by police and soldiery. After Minister Woodford received his passport and while leaving Spain, his train was rocked at Val-

adolid and an attempt made by the police to arrest one of his suite under pretense that he was a Spanish subject. During all the excitement in this country, intensified by the awful tragedy in Havana harbor when the Maine was destroyed by a torpedo and 266 of her men hurried into eternity, there were no demonstrations in this country save an occasional burning of Weyer in effigy, or the incineration of a Spanish flag, but no representative of a Spanish flag suffered personal affront or bodily harm. Minister de Lome, after his insult to the President, left this country as quietly as a private citizen might have done, and when Minister Bernabe asked for his passport and left the other day, although there were many people at the depot many of whom wait from curiosity to see him, not an unkind word was spoken, and he took leave of his friends, some of whom were Americans, as unobtrusively as any departing citizen might have done. All this shows the difference between a manly, self-respecting people, and a rabble, who do not respect themselves, and forfeit the respect of other nations.

This Government is wisely taking timely precautions to avoid complications with other nations that might possibly, if these precautions were not taken, result from the war with Spain. Its notification of the blockade of certain Cuban ports was one of these and its notification that this Government would not resort to privateering was another. The first gives timely notice to other Governments of the Cuban gates that are closed while the other gives notice that their merchantmen will be safe and that there will be by this Government no guerrilla warfare on the seas. This also puts Spain in a corner, for she must either abandon the contemplated plan of privateering or run the risk of giving offence to other nations and provoking their hostility, which would make the water much hotter for her ships. The precaution has also been taken to state as definitely as can be stated what goods are contraband of war, and when they are, so that shippers may govern themselves accordingly and know what they are doing when they make up cargoes. Following this with an official declaration of the war which is now on, all the international forms will have been complied with and the prudential steps taken to avoid possible complications with other powers.

Some time ago there was a report that the Spanish Government would turn Cuba over to the Pope and let him surrender it, which would avoid the humiliation of a surrender direct by Spain. This fake, which was soon exploded, has been followed by another equally as absurd, that Cuba is to be ceded to Austria. The basis of this report may possibly be that the Queen Regent of Spain, the mother of the boy King Alfonso, is an Austrian, connected with the royal family of Austria, so it would be a sort of family transaction, if it were practicable, but it isn't, for Spain now has nothing of Cuban soil to cede, her title having been declared null and void and notice of ejectment served. If Austria became a party to this dicker she would simply be putting herself in the place of the trader for property which couldn't carry title with it, and would have to put herself in Spain's place and fight for what she claimed, in view of which she would hardly be willing to seriously consider, much less close up, such a fraudulent dicker as that. Spain couldn't swap Cuba now for a yellow dog, unless she agreed to sign papers with Mr. Gomez & Co., to avoid supplementary proceedings.

Gen. Lew Wallace, who had announced himself as a candidate for United States Senator, has withdrawn from the ring since the prospect of a scrap with Spain, because he thinks he would enjoy fighting more than he would jawing in the Senate.

It is a somewhat remarkable fact that the Maine which was blown up in Havana harbor was modelled after the armored Brazilian cruiser Aquidaban, which was torpedoed and sunk by the Paraguayans, both meeting the same fate.

The curfew law has worked so well in the city of Indianapolis, Ind., that the bands of toughs are about broken up, very few arrests at night are necessary, and the policemen are beginning to enjoy life.

An inventive genius has constructed a device by which small men can raise themselves. Marion Butler should invest in one of them immediately and keep it in the Senate.

The last discovered spot on the sun is a small patch only 30,000 miles in diameter.

NORTH CAROLINA FISHERIES.

United States Fish Commission Agents Making a Canvass of Our Fisheries. A New Fish Hatchery.

Mr. T. M. Cogswell, a representative of the United States Fish Commission, is at The Orion. He is gathering statistics showing the nature and importance of the fishery industries, as regards the capital invested in nets, boats and other fishing appliances. A thorough canvass of the whole State is being made. Mr. Cogswell's territory embraces the section between Pamlico river and the Cape Fear river. In conversation with a STAR reporter, Mr. Cogswell says the fisheries of the State have increased largely since the last investigation in 1890, and will no doubt take first rank in regard to fishery products among the States. In the matter of oysters, North Carolina shows a wonderful increase in the output, and the quality is far above the average.

The gathering of statistics by the Fish Commission is with the primary object in view of benefiting the fisheries, as much and better legislation can be obtained when the facts of the vast amount of capital and labor required to operate the fisheries is brought to the attention of Congress, and by this means appropriation obtained for the building of hatcheries etc.

Mr. Cogswell says that the new Commissioner, Hon. Geo. M. Bowers, is doing everything in his power to benefit the fisheries, and to this end will have a new hatchery built in our State as soon as the plans can be perfected, the appropriation having been made a short time ago.

Prospecting Farmers. Forty prospectors from Western States arrived here yesterday afternoon by the Atlantic Coast Line in charge of Mr. J. A. Brown, of Chadbourn, who met them at the depot. They represent a number of States, among which are Michigan, Wisconsin, Ohio, Illinois, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Kentucky and the Dakotas. The prospectors put up at the Bonitz House last night, and will leave this morning on a special train for Chadbourn, where they will inspect the lands of the Sunny South colony. To-night they will go on to Conway, where the Homewood colony is located.

Like the most of the other five hundred colonists who have settled in this section, these are looking for a less austere climate than they are accustomed to. Besides, lands are cheaper here and there are other minor inducements.

The Castle Haynes Property. Mr. W. H. Chadbourn returned yesterday from Raleigh, where he had been to be examined in the Castle Haynes phosphate mines case. It appears that some of the parties holding mortgages on the property do not want to see it sold for \$3,800, the price at which Mr. Chadbourn bid it in several months ago, and contend that either he or the penitentiary is responsible for a bid of \$16,000 that Mr. Chadbourn made for the penitentiary nearly a year ago when Mr. Chadbourn was one of the directors.

Mr. Chadbourn claims that he was acting under authority of Gov. Russell and Mr. John R. Smith who at the time was Superintendent of the Penitentiary, and that his action was ratified by the board of directors. The hearing was continued until May 10th.

On the Nantucket.

Lively times on the Nantucket again yesterday, and late in the afternoon at paying off time it was still livelier. Money was passed around liberally, and trade last night doubtless received a material impetus from the government operations that have been going on here.

The machinists will take Sunday, not going to work after knocking off last night until 7 o'clock to-morrow morning. To-day, however, with the carpenters and laborers will be a day of hard work, instead of Sabbath rest.

The Week's Health Record.

Another week has passed without a single quarantine of any kind in the city of Wilmington, and during the week there was not a single death of a white person and only six among the colored people. During the week one body was brought from a distance for interment here. The birth register shows one white and four colored births.

THE SHIP SHENANDOAH.

Reported Capture of the Vessel by Spaniards Discredited in London.

By Cable to the Morning Star. LONDON, April 23.—It is reported here that the Spaniards have captured the American ship Shenandoah, Captain Murphy, which left San Francisco on January 14th for Liverpool. G. V. Darbon, agent for the American ship Shenandoah, said in reference to the above dispatch that he had heard from trustworthy sources that it was not his boat, but the British steamer Shenandoah, bound from Newport News, April 18th, for Liverpool, that had been boarded and examined by the Spaniards.

The United States cruiser Topoka is safe. The steamer which collided with the Albatross has been identified.

THE STATE GUARD. REGULARS TO GO TO CUBA.

Information From Washington That It Will Be Called Out Monday.

Will Mobilize at Raleigh. The President Will Appoint the Commanding Officer—Another Hotel For Raleigh—On Corner Stone Laying by Odd Fellows.

[Special Star Correspondence.] RALEIGH, N. C., April 23. Governor Russell sent to the Supreme Court library yesterday for works on military authority and law. The State authorities are expecting to call for troops every hour. In fact a call was expected last night. The Governor's staff and the officers of the guard will not accompany the North Carolina brigade. The Brigadier General, who is chosen by the President, will appoint his own staff. The Colonels of the State Guard desire the appointment of Maj. E. M. Hayes as Brigadier General of the North Carolina troops. Maj. Hayes has had more military experience than any other man in the State. He went through the civil war and was quite a factor in suppressing the Indian uprising in the West. Maj. Hayes is expected from Washington to-day.

Raleigh is to have another hotel. It will be located at the Florence Hotel site. The building will be first-class, and will contain about 100 rooms. It will be the corner-stone of the new building for the Blind Institution here will be laid May 11th by the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows. Gov. Russell has been invited to deliver an address. A special train left here to-day for Chadbourn, carrying a large crowd to witness the North Carolina-Virginia game. Adjutant General Cowles has arrived and will remain throughout the difficulty. He says he is going to the front even if he has to go as a private. [Special Star Telegram.] O. J. Carroll bought the Florence Hotel site for \$15,000, and will soon erect a modern hotel. Senator Butler telegraphs the Governor that troops (the State Guard) will be ordered out on Monday, and that full instructions will be received then. It will cost \$15,000 to mobilize the troops here.

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION.

Calling for 125,000 Troops, To Serve Two Years—Unless Sooner Discharged.

By Telegram to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, April 23.—The President to-day issued the following proclamation calling for 125,000 troops to serve two years: By the President of the United States: WHEREAS, the resolution of Congress was approved on the 20th day of April, 1898, entitled "Joint resolution for the recognition of the independence of the people of Cuba, demanding of the government of Spain relinquish its authority and government of the island of Cuba, and withdraw its land and naval forces from Cuba and Cuban waters, and directing the President of the United States to use the land and naval forces of the United States to carry these resolutions into effect"; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States is authorized by the Constitution to call out the militia of the United States to suppress insurrections and to execute the laws of the United States in time of war and for other purposes, approved April 22nd, 1898, the President is authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the militia of the United States: Now, therefore, I, William McKinley, President of the United States, by virtue of the power vested in me by the Constitution and the laws, and in pursuance of the authority conferred upon me by the Constitution and the laws, do hereby call out the militia of the United States to suppress insurrections and to execute the laws of the United States in time of war and for other purposes, approved April 22nd, 1898, the President is authorized, in order to raise a volunteer army, to issue his proclamation calling for volunteers to serve in the militia of the United States: Now, 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