

THE EXPECTED HAS HAPPENED.

The announcement that there has been fighting at Manila between the American forces and the Filipinos does not come as a surprise, for it has been apparent for some time that only the coolest headed management on both sides could avert a collision.

If these reports be true the treaty will be ratified, if it has not been ratified at this writing, for the fact that blood has been shed, American lives lost, and that the attack was made by the Filipinos will quiet opposition and unite not only the Senators who differed, but the American people.

It is somewhat remarkable that the conflict of arms should have taken place just a couple days before the day fixed for the vote in the Senate on the peace treaty, and if the attack was made, as reported, by the Filipinos, it is proof of their amazing stupidity to thus invite and provoke battle against a powerful foe, when such strenuous efforts were being made by the opponents of imperialism to prevent trouble and to secure them the independence they fought Spain for.

This bill was dictated by a number of ship builders who met in Philadelphia some time ago, but is fathered by Senator Hanna, whose name it bears, while Mr. Payne, of Ohio, stands sponsor for it in the House.

Assuming that they are honest in the professed desire to build up a merchant marine, and that there is no grab in it, doesn't \$165,000,000 look like a pretty big bonus to divide among the ship building fraternity? And isn't \$57,000,000 a pretty large sized plan to hand over to one concern?

There is little doubt that such a temptation would stimulate ship-building and ship-sailing, but if it is necessary now when it has been clearly demonstrated that our ship-builders can build ships as cheaply as the builders of any country can, will it not be necessary to keep it up to keep the ship-building going on?

If they are really anxious to build up an American merchant marine without taxing under a false pretext the American people to do it, why don't they apply some of the same tactics they did in favoring manufacturers—resort to practically prohibitory legislation? They enacted tariff laws that kept out certain lines of foreign manufactured goods and thus gave the home manufacturers a practical monopoly of the home market.

This is a sweet item. This country produced in 1898 793,548,431 pounds of sugar, and that wasn't enough to go round, for in the same year we imported 613,793,337 pounds.

A Chicago syndicate owns a 5,000 square mile patch of ground in Texas, on which it has 130,000 head of cattle and 1,500 horses, and all the work on it is done by 125 men.

One hundred shares of Keely motor stock were sold in New York the other day at 250 cents on the \$100. And the people who bought it didn't show much sense.

Gen. Miles thinks it isn't a matter of so much importance whether he has been talking through the newspapers, as whether that beef was bad.

The Russian hen attends to business too. In addition to what she furnished for home use, she supplied for export last year 1,475,000,000 eggs.

ONE OF HANNA'S SCHEMES.

How much Hon. Mark Hanna expects to make out of his ship subsidy bill if it become a law we do not know, but he doubtless expects to make it pay. But whether he will make anything by it or not there are millions in it for the favored ship-builders and ship-owners.

The report says that even if the bill were passed and repealed at the next session, it would cost the country \$165,000,000, and that under the terms of the Navigation Company, which is to receive a yearly subsidy of \$2,850,000 for twenty years would draw in all over \$57,000,000. A neat addition to the dividends of the stockholders.

Further, the report says the bill provides that a man who builds a great and speedy steamer shall be paid in bounties in twenty years more than twice the whole cost of the boat. It is admitted by the advocates of the bill that the bounties would be enough to pay all the salaries and wages of the officers and crews of the ships.

Naturally, the minority asks why, if the public money is to be taken to encourage the building of ships, it should be distributed to a few favored individuals, and not to all the ship-builders and mechanics.

And really there is no answer to this, for, on the principle that a business which will not thrive without a bounty ought to have it, we might set every business in the country on its feet, and introduce some from other countries, too.

How much better off the nation would be, and how long its seeming prosperity would last if every man were contributing his share of the subsidy given to every other, are questions that do not trouble the statesmen who believe in subsidies, but the rest of the community should think it over.

The minority report calls attention to the fact that American shipbuilders are now underbidding foreign rivals, because they can build them cheaper. The majority report would give material used in shipbuilding, which would still further reduce the cost; and it holds that tonnage taxes and vexatious fees for clearing papers at custom houses would be done away with, and that with such a policy the shipbuilding industry will take care of itself even better than it is doing now, and that is well enough.

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IMPROVED STORM SIGNAL SERVICE.

Very decided improvements are being inaugurated by Mr. W. H. Fallon, chief observer of the U. S. Weather Bureau station in this city, in the matter of severe storm or hurricane signals.

The improvement is in pursuance to instructions from Washington and consists of a telegraph, telephone and mail warning service, which will cover the entire district for which the Wilmington office is the chief station.

When storm warnings are received Mr. Fallon will immediately telegraph or telephone them, at the government's expense, to the principal towns in all parts of the district, which comprises Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Cumberland, Duplin, Jones, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender and Robeson counties.

In speaking of the Storm Signal service, to a member of the STAR staff yesterday, Mr. Fallon said that the storm forecasting is now much more accurate and very much earlier because of the service which the Washington Bureau has established in the West Indies since the Spanish-American war. Heretofore there has been no warning of Atlantic coast storms from the South until they struck Key West or the other West India islands twice a day, so that cities all along the South Atlantic coast can be warned of any storms which pass those islands bound this way, very much earlier than previously.

Mr. Fallon says that arrangements have been made for the most effective frost forecast service, during the coming Spring which have been given in the history of the service. The first forecast will be given on March 15th, and the warnings will be given from 24 to 36 hours in advance.

It is estimated that this department of the service saved in this district alone fully \$300,000 to truckers and others last season.

It is claimed that there was not a single frost last Spring which was not forecasted by the service. This Spring the citizens of any portifice in the district can get the service by asking the Wilmington office for it. And the daily weather forecasts will be mailed to any citizen who will make a written request for them.

Officers Elected at Directors' Meeting in Baltimore—Will Take Charge February 15th.

BALTIMORE, Md., Feb. 8.—Directors of the Atlantic & Yadkin Railroad Company met at 2.30 P. M. today in the office of the Safe Deposit and Trust Company. Present: Mr. Warren G. Elliott, Wilmington; Messrs. B. F. Newcomer and Michael Jenkins, Baltimore, and their clerks. Mr. Walters is away from the city.

The following general officers were elected: J. R. Kenly, General Manager; T. M. Emerson, Traffic Manager; J. F. Divine, General Superintendent; W. A. Riech, General Auditor; J. F. Post, Jr., Secretary and Treasurer.

The general officers were authorized and directed to take possession of the property at midnight on the night of February 14th. Other business transacted was of the ordinary routine nature.

Details of the transfer will be arranged by Mr. Elliott, president of the new company, and Gen. John Gill, receiver of the C. F. & Y. V. Nothing learned as to issue of new securities.

THE MOORE-KEATON NUPTIALS. Quiet Home Wedding in Goldsboro—Will Reside in Wilmington.

Mr. Lloyd W. Moore, of this city, was united in marriage yesterday at 2.30 P. M., to Miss George Keaton, of Goldsboro. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Keaton, in the presence of the family and a few intimate friends.

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THE DANGER TO THE PARTY.

It Lies in Local Legislation Not Favored by An Ascertained Majority of White Voters.

The following from the Raleigh News and Observer applies with great force to some of the legislation proposed for New Hanover county, and is fully in accord with the position of the STAR:

The danger to the Democratic party does not lie in general legislation. That will be given much deliberation, and when enacted will embody the highest wisdom of the party. The danger is in local legislation such as the stock law, local dispensary, and that will be given much deliberation, and when enacted will embody the highest wisdom of the party.

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SENATE RATIFIED PEACE TREATY.

The Opening of Hostilities at Manila Had Much to Do With It.

The Measure Passed by a Vote of 57 to 27. Only One Vote More Than the Two-Thirds Majority Necessary. President Highly Gratified.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, February 8.—The treaty of peace negotiated between the commissioners of the United States and Spain at Paris was to-day ratified by the United States Senate, the vote being 57 yeas to 27 nays, or one vote more than the two-thirds majority necessary to secure senatorial concurrence in a treaty document.

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WAR INVESTIGATION REPORT IS READY.

Dismisses Charges About Beef Furnished Soldiers—Severely Criticizes Miles. Commands Alger.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star. WASHINGTON, February 8.—The war investigating commission has now completed its labors, and its report will be in the hands of the President to-morrow.

The report of the commission is a voluminous document of 150 printed pages. The report makes an important feature of the beef issue and dismisses as a general proposition the charges that the army had received the beef furnished the army. It finds, it is understood, that most of the beef was such as could be properly fed to the army.

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FILIPINO FORCES STILL ACTIVE.

American Troops Continue to Control the Situation at Manila.

Another Night Attack. All Quiet at Cavite—Filipinos Concentrated at Paranaque—Villages Destroyed by Artillery—Tennessee Regiment Sent to Iloilo.

By Cable to the Morning Star. MANILA, February 8.—Last evening as the Filipinos at Calocan were evidently massing for a night attack upon the American left wing, companies B, C, and L, of the Twentieth Kansas infantry, were ordered to attack and drove the marauders from a bamboo jungle in front of the firing line, where they had caused considerable annoyance all the afternoon.

The Spanish papers generally condemn the American line, but the admirable order maintained in Manila. The Union Iberica says: "We are satisfied that the Americans, who are for the greater part volunteers, fought nobly and with precision. The admirable order maintained in Manila, though without trenchments at the various points defended, they demonstrated the spirit which animates them. The Filipinos, who are mostly regulars, fought with much bravery, but with less precision and regularity."

The situation to-day is practically unchanged. The American line has not been appreciably extended and the troops are still in the same positions. The Spanish papers generally condemn the American line, but the admirable order maintained in Manila. The Union Iberica says: "We are satisfied that the Americans, who are for the greater part volunteers, fought nobly and with precision. The admirable order maintained in Manila, though without trenchments at the various points defended, they demonstrated the spirit which animates them. The Filipinos, who are mostly regulars, fought with much bravery, but with less precision and regularity."

All quiet at Cavite. Owing to the lack of supplies in the adjacent village of San Roque, Commissary Milliken has been ordered to send necessary supplies to those able to pay for them; and there will be a distribution of free rations to others.

General Hale's brigade, consisting of the First South Dakota infantry, First Colorado infantry and the First Nebraska infantry, supported by a battery of the Utah light artillery, occupied the village of San Roque, and to-day the villagers returned to the base of supplies. It has an almost perfect position. Four guns of the Utah artillery, stationed on a hill between the village and the valley to the right and left, and the hills in front.

Shelling the Villages. Yesterday the Utahs dropped shells into the villages across the river. The natives disappeared among the hills, and the shells were scattered. Subsequently the Americans reconnoitered and found the village of San Pedro completely deserted. They did not burn it, and to-day the villagers returned to the base of supplies. It has an almost perfect position. Four guns of the Utah artillery, stationed on a hill between the village and the valley to the right and left, and the hills in front.

Movements of Troops. General Overhairs' brigade, the Fourth North Carolina infantry, and the First North Carolina infantry, right, did some reconnoitering to-day, but otherwise they have been taking matters easy. The First Wyoming infantry, First Idaho infantry, and the First Nebraska infantry, supported by a battery of the Utah light artillery, occupied the village of San Roque, and to-day the villagers returned to the base of supplies. It has an almost perfect position. Four guns of the Utah artillery, stationed on a hill between the village and the valley to the right and left, and the hills in front.

Another Night Attack. MANILA, Feb. 9. 11 A. M.—The Filipinos at Calocan opened fire last evening just before midnight upon the American line. They maintained a fusillade of musketry, supplemented by an occasional shot from two big guns, for about twenty minutes. The Americans did not reply.