

The News and Observer.

LEADS ALL NORTH CAROLINA DAILIES IN NEWS AND CIRCULATION.

Gen. Wheeler's Defence

A COMPLETE REFUTATION OF BONSAI'S CHARGES.

Wheeler Shows He Acted Under Shafter's Orders, Proving by Officers Bonsai's Attacks on him Unwarranted.

Washington, March 20.—Adjutant General Corbin today made public the statement which General Wheeler has felt called upon to make in order as he says "to refute certain allegations which reflect upon the cavalry division which I had the honor to command."

The statement is exceedingly voluminous, really making another history of the campaign before Santiago, and it is accompanied by an appendix made up of letters from officers who were connected with General Wheeler in his operations, to support the allegations he makes. Wheeler was guilty of disobedience of orders, that some statements were made before the war investigating commission regarding the battle of La Guasimas which do great injustice to the part of the army which fought that battle, Steven Bonsai stated that General Wheeler was guilty of disobedience of orders, General Wheeler says that to remain silent and neglect to refute the untruthful charges made by Bonsai would be disloyal to the soldiers and the country. He notes that it is with the approval of Major General Miles, commanding general, that he makes the explanation now submitted.

The history of the movements begins with the quotations of a statement by General Lawton before the war commission to the effect that he had been directed by the General commanding to proceed to and capture Siboney. General Wheeler tells how the troops landed; how he had pointed out to Shafter the necessity of pursuing and beating the Spaniards before they could retreat behind their strong breastworks at Santiago, and how Shafter and many officers fully concurred in the necessity for a speedy movement. He reports Shafter's order to "proceed to Jaraguaito." (Otherwise Siboney.) He quotes various orders to show Shafter's anxiety to get Wheeler rapidly forward, in order to reach Lawton, whom he found on the road just before reaching Siboney. Wheeler tells of the reconnaissance he made personally and of a consultation that night with General Young and Colonel Wood. He says the Cubans predicted that the Spaniards would leave Siboney and Santiago that night. When the advance began next day, General Wheeler says, the regular troops and artillery were ordered upon the main Siboney and Santiago road, while the Rough Riders and some of the other cavalry organizations were "on the recommendation of General Castillo sent by the less frequented and most difficult road." The Spaniards were found in the same position next morning about three miles from Siboney and General Wheeler gives a description of the action that followed. He says that the dynamite gun upon which great reliance was placed failed to reach him, and it was for a time very doubtful whether the men in front of him were Spaniards or Cubans. In an hour the fight was won but the enemy's retreat being precipitate, his men being exhausted and all being on foot, pursuit was impossible. At this point General Wheeler includes congratulatory reports from Shafter upon the engagement.

He points out that Shafter was the only officer in Cuban warfare senior to him; that he, Wheeler, was the senior officer on shore and of course much was left to his discretion. He quotes Shafter's testimony before the commission to the effect that the fight had good results; that it taught the Spaniards that they had different men from the Cubans to fight, Wheeler submits that this shows beyond controversy that what he did was strictly in accordance with general orders; that the La Guasimas fight was made in strict obedience to the spirit of and proper interpretation of the orders received from General Shafter.

In addition General Wheeler insists that leaving this evidence aside, the facts stated by Lawton in his report to Shafter of June 23rd and Lawton's sworn evidence before the war investigating commission would show that he fought the La Guasimas battle in strict compliance with the express wishes of General Shafter, his commanding general. Wheeler quotes Lawton's statement that he had been ordered by Shafter to proceed against Siboney, and declares that practically his orders were the same as Lawton's. He insists that the Spaniards were in a position where it was advantageous for the Americans to attack them rather than to allow them to fight in their block houses and other defenses which they occupied at the time Lawton received his orders. Says General Wheeler: "The least delay and this opportunity would have been lost. I know that he (Shafter) wanted the enemy impressed with American bravery and determination. I knew that the American people and the Administration had sent us to Cuba for a special purpose and that a prompt attack on the Spaniards would aid in attaining that purpose. The dread of yellow fever added to and emphasized the imperative necessity of prompt action upon my part. The victory was due entirely to the chivalric courage of the 964 brave American soldiers who fought the battle. The statement that they were ambushed is absolutely untrue. The statement that they were aided in any way, shape or form by any other troops is also untrue. The nearest American troops were about four miles off when the fight commenced, and

the victory had been won and the enemy had been in precipitate retreat fully two hours before they reached the field."

General Wheeler proceeds to point out the difficult position of the troops at the end of the battle, drenched with rain, hungry and tired. He claims the victory was due to the cavalry division entirely and quotes the Spanish reports to show that the Spaniards believed the American force which whipped them and drove them from the field was ten times as large as it actually was.

He refers to a statement by Bonsai that Lawton had declared that every man who had fallen in the Guasimas fight had been needlessly sacrificed, and he says: "It is my duty to say that this statement is absolutely untrue."

He tells how General Lawton after the fight congratulated him (Wheeler) and points out how unwisely it would have been for Lawton to have criticized his senior officer in that fashion. He says the statement that the Guasimas fight had the effect of drawing the soldiers five or six miles into the interior was also a mistake. The advance was only three miles and would have only been necessary in any case to find proper camping ground. In this connection he again quotes Shafter in an order to him to advance Lawton's division, made because it would have been impossible to have camped the entire army within three miles of the coast at Siboney.

"Touching General Miles' statement before the war commission where that officer said that Lawton had told him that there was a scheme on foot to leave him (Lawton) in the lurch, and have a fight, General Wheeler points out that General Miles was careful to say that he only repeated what Lawton told him. Taking up the charge that Wheeler had been relieved of command on the night of the thirtieth and had no command during the battle on the following day, General Wheeler says all these statements are absolutely false.

"I did everything in my power to encourage this feeling and told those who came to me that the enemy had fled from us at La Guasimas, and that we had driven them from their fortifications on San Juan ridge; that they would expect us to attempt to take Santiago the next day, that there was no possible danger of their making an attack upon us that night and that if they did we could hold the ridge. The fighting was more or less severe during the day, but by night we were well entrenched, and I regard our position as impregnable."

General Wheeler says the statement that he had told General Kent of his desire to retreat was absolutely untrue, adding: "I was emphatic and positive and earnest against retreating from the time we took San Juan Hill until July 16th when Santiago surrendered."

He attached General Kent's denial of this same statement along with considerable other evidence of the same character. He says the publishing of the errors he seeks to correct, has brought to him many offers from army officers familiar with the facts, to write him on the subject in refutation, and he adds in the shape of an appendix to his own report a number of letters from such officers. He quotes General Lawton in a letter to himself as pronouncing his (Wheeler's) history of the campaign "a very just and accurate description of what occurred," and he quotes Governor Roosevelt as follows: "I have read Bonsai's book, and it makes me extremely indignant. He seems to have selected you as an especial object of attack. Of the Guasimas fight he knows absolutely nothing."

SPAIN WILL MAKE A PROTEST.

Madrid, March 19.—Senor Silveira, Premier and Minister of Foreign Affairs, had a conference today with the French Ambassador regarding the liberation of Spanish prisoners in the hands of the Filipinos. Spain, it is reported, has determined to protest to the civilized world against the alleged attitude of the Americans in hindering the efforts of General Rios, Spanish commander in the Philippines, to have the prisoners liberated.

FIVE WERE MURDERED

CHILDREN FOUND IN A BURNING HOUSE IN KANSAS.

Father Believed to be the Assassin. Rode Away While the House Was Burning. He is Now Under Arrest.

Hutchinson, Kan., March 20.—A crime was revealed here today when the coroner and his assistants removed the dead bodies of the five little children from the house occupied by Jno. Moore which was burned at an early hour. A coroner's jury investigated the case, and in accordance with the jury's returns Moore, the father of the children, was arrested on a charge of murder. The tragedy has caused much excitement here, and there is some talk of lynching the prisoner.

When the firemen and neighbors reached the burning house the father was the only member of the family of seven found outside. His actions were queer, and he would not talk. While the building was still burning, and his children were within the burning walls, he took a horse from his stable and rode away.

When the firemen entered the house after having partly quenched the flames, they found the five children side by side in a bed on the floor, all dead, but not badly burned. The skull of each child was deeply indented, and from the dents long fractures extended. All but one of the children had been stabbed in the neck. The throat of the three-year-old boy had been slashed so deep that the spinal column had been severed.

Upon these facts and the strange behavior of the father the authorities base their charge of murder.

ASKS FOR A SUMMER CAMP.

Alger Promises Atlanta's Request Shall Receive Due Consideration.

Washington, March 20.—A large delegation from Atlanta, Ga., waited on Secretary Alger at the War Department today and requested some of the troops which are to be brought back from Cuba during the next months be put in summer camp at Atlanta.

Secretary Alger promised to give thorough consideration to their suggestion, and indicated that the plans of the department regarding the bringing home of the volunteers in Cuba might necessitate the establishment of one or more camps at Southern points, during the coming summer to serve as midway stations prior to the journey to their homes at more distant points.

THE PRESIDENT AT JEKYL.

Meets Reed, But the Two Hold No Conversation.

Brunswick, Ga., March 20.—President McKinley rests tonight on Jekyll Island, the beautiful winter club home of a number of Eastern millionaires on Saint Simons' Sound, ten miles up the coast from Brunswick.

With him are Mrs. McKinley, Vice President and Mrs. Hobart and Senator Hanna. They are the guests of Ex-Secretary of the Interior Cornelius N. Bliss, whom the President promised to visit last year. In another cottage on the island is Speaker Thomas B. Reed. All persons in any way concerned in their presence at Jekyll assert positively and unreservedly that the visit of the two rival political leaders at the same time is a mere coincidence. Whether any improvement of their strained personal or political relations will be one of the accidents of their inevitable meeting on the island no one will predict. The Speaker probably will leave Jekyll tomorrow afternoon or Wednesday and the President on Wednesday afternoon.

When the President arrived at the island to-day Speaker Reed, some club members and a score of pretty girls in summer frocks were at the water's edge to greet the party.

The big Speaker's attitude was characteristic, his hands behind his back and his head thrown back and upward. When the President walked ashore Mr. Reed smilingly raised his hat and said: "How do you do Mr. President."

Mr. McKinley acknowledged the greeting with a low bow and said: "How do you do Mr. Speaker?"

The President and Mrs. McKinley entered a carriage and drove away, and the Speaker strolled off with a pretty girl. Late in the afternoon the President and Vice President Hobart went out driving.

The President and party are quartered in the cottage of Frederick Baker, who is in Europe traveling.

TRINITY DEFEATS BINGHAM.

Durham, N. C., March 20.—(Special.)—The baseball game played this afternoon at Trinity Park resulted: Trinity, 17; Bingham School, 0. Batteries: Trinity—Smith, McAfee. Pitcher: Bingham—Mangum, Keith, Legrande. Hits: Trinity, 17; Bingham, 1. Hit by pitched ball, Trinity, 5. Struck out, Trinity, 14; Bingham, 9. One visitor reached second, three reached first. Legrande made the only hit for the visitors. Three base hits, Smith; two base hits, Jordan, McAfee.

STEAMER STRIKES A SNAG.

The Ethel Quickly Sank—Her Passengers Rescued.

Savannah, Ga., March 20.—The steamer Ethel, plying between this city and Augusta, struck a snag in Horschman Lake, one hundred and fifty miles up the river yesterday and quickly sank. She had twelve passengers aboard. They were rescued by the steamer Cook, of the same line. The Ethel carried a heavy and valuable cargo, most of which was lost. It is thought the steamer can be raised.

ON NOW TO DURHAM

BRANCH OFFICE OF NEWS AND OBSERVER TO BE ESTABLISHED THERE.

In Order to Facilitate Work on Our Great State Edition, Durham is to Have a Splendid Representation.

In order to facilitate work on our great forthcoming State Edition, we have established an office in Durham to be directly under the eye of Mr. Hal David, Manager of the enterprise. Durham is a thriving and growing city and will no doubt take hold of the enterprise with as much avidity as the good people of Wilmington, Asheville, Charlotte, Greensboro, Raleigh, etc., have done. We ask that each citizen of Durham appoint himself as a committee of one to further the good work, and give Mr. David and his assistants a patient hearing while he explains the plan, etc.

The time has come when all of North Carolina should be advertised to the world in her true colors. Her cities, and they are many and thriving, should be given a just representation in an issue of this character. Durham is one of the great manufacturing centers, containing some of the greatest factories in the country. Her people are progressive, wide-awake and are always looking to the advancement of their city.

The News and Observer will in its great issue disseminate such intelligence regarding Durham as will be read and pondered upon. We desire to have represented the city and county, officials, members of the bar, tobacco factories, manufactories of all kinds, business houses, physicians, etc. Knowing as people of Durham as we do we are confident that the Durham representation will be as great as any in the State.

People of Durham we are with you, do by us as you would be done by. The fame of the News and Observer's edition has spread from Cherokee to Currituck.

TWO BODIES ARE FOUND.

Exhumed From the Debris of the Windsor Fire.

New York, March 20.—Two bodies charred beyond recognition, were found in the ruins of the Windsor Hotel today. One was the body of a man, the other that of a young woman, probably a servant of the hotel. The number of dead known is now 12. Several hundred men, working in eight hour shifts, are delving in the debris. They have brought to light many of the personal effects of the guests. It was thought that today's work would reveal many bodies, and the disappointing result has led to a revision of estimates of the number of dead still entombed by the piles of brick. Most of the guests of the hotel have been accounted for. In the "missing" lists now published are the names of a number of servants of the hotel and of people who have not been seen since the fire, with the result that their friends have reported their disappearance to the police. The list of people missing from their homes is always large in New York, and just now a large part of this list is charged up to the Windsor Hotel fire.

A list of missing, which includes all who have been inquired for by friends and of whom no tidings have been received is in the hands of the police. It numbers fifty persons.

The injured Mrs. Alice W. Price, of Macon, Ga., who is at Bellevue hospital suffering with a sprained back and fractured ankle, is improving.

Mrs. G. M. Sorrell, who was rescued from the burning hotel and taken to the home of Dr. Murphy in West 47th street, is fast recovering from her injuries. General Sorrell, her husband, came up from Savannah, Ga., today.

THE REPORTS ARE FALSE.

Henry Denies the Statement of Revolutionary Conditions.

Washington, March 20.—The War Department today received the following dispatch:

San Juan Porto Rico, March 20th. Adjutant General, Washington: "Newspaper reports of conditions here and reported interviews with me stating chances of uprising are absolutely false. There is a great deal of idle, childish talk on the part of the ignorant, but as to any resistance against law and order of any masses it is absurd. There has always been political agitation here, less now than ever before; truth should be known in the United States and island not injured by false statements. (Signed) "HENRY."

COMMENCEMENT PROGRAMME.

Wake Forest, N. C., March 20.—(Special.)—The programme of the approaching commencement is now completed. On Monday evening, May 22, Senator M. H. Justice of Rutherfordton will make the address before the Law Department of the college. Tuesday evening Hon. W. W. Kitchin, of the Fifth Congressional district will give the annual oration before the Alumni Association. The address before the Literary societies will be made Wednesday morning by the famous scholar and writer, Professor W. P. Trent of the University of the South, who is withal a charming speaker. The baccalaureate sermon will be preached on Wednesday evening by Rev. John O. Rust, of Nashville, Tenn. He is confessedly one of the most brilliant men among the Baptists of the South. Of course the graduating exercises fall on Thursday, May 25th.

President Taylor lectured on Friday evening last before the Horner School at Oxford on "The Little Servants of the South."

Local representatives of the order wish it announced that the Carrolton will be headquarters for the visiting members of the Knights of Pythias.

Repulse of the Banditti

MILLER DRIVES THEM BACK TO THE MOUNTAINS.

Aguinaldo Condemns to Death Those Who Advise Him to Surrender—American Troops Loot Dwellings.

Manila, March 20.—4:40 p. m.—The mountain banditti of Panay Island recently threatened a serious attack upon Iloilo, but they were repulsed with a loss of 200 men, by General Miller.

McNeill's battalion of the California regiment, under Lieutenant Colonel Duboce has been ordered to embark on the transport Indiana tomorrow, in order to reinforce the garrisons of the towns of Bais and Bagayan, on the east coast of the island of Negros, where Colonel Smith is in command. This is only a measure of precaution, as Major General Otis says he does not anticipate trouble there.

ands. President Schurman will prepare it.

The document will explain the spirit in which the United States intends to fulfill the trust imposed, and will call upon the people of the islands to lay down their arms and co-operate in the interest of good government.

OTIS TELLS OF VICTORY.

Our Forces Have Possession of Laguna De Bay.

Washington, March 19.—The War Department today received the following dispatch from Major General Otis regarding operations against the Filipinos: "Manila, March 19.—Our improvised gunboats, under Captain Grant, Utah, artillery, have full possession of Laguna de Bay. Troops, inhabitants and property on shore of lake at our mercy. Wheaton brigade, on Pasig river line, drove the Filipinos northeast into Province Morong.

"Last evening Filipinos attacked portion of his force south of Pasig, killing two men and wounding twenty of the Twenty-second Infantry. This morning Wheaton moved against this native force driving it to the south fifteen miles, experiencing very light loss. Filipinos left 200 dead on field."

Advices from Iloilo states that Lieutenant Commander Cowper, of the British gunboat Plover, with the consent of Admiral Miller, went on a mission into the interior of Panay to attempt to bring about peace between the Americans and natives, but the mission resulted in utter failure.

THREE POLICE WERE KILLED.

Five of the Populace Dead and Many Wounded.

Havana, March 20.—The excitement growing out of the conflict between the police and the populace is rapidly subsiding, and it is not likely that there will be further trouble. The mob has been taught a lesson which will probably prove sufficient.

During the affrays of Saturday and yesterday three policemen were killed and about 15 wounded, while of the populace five were killed and between 60 and 70 wounded, some so seriously that they will probably die. The condition of Police Captain Jose Estrampas is serious, but it is expected he will recover.

Sixty arrests have been made, and orders have been issued to the police not to hesitate to shoot hereafter, should occasion require it.

Arch-Bishop Chappelle, apostolic delegate to West Indies, sailed for New Orleans today, in order to be present at the Easter services there, but he will return immediately after to Havana.

The Ward Liner Havana, specially chartered for this purpose, sailed this afternoon for the United States with the Second Louisiana volunteers.

RIOTS IN HAVANA.

Policemen Attempt to Disperse Crowds, and Conflicts Follow.

Havana, March 19.—A serious conflict between the police and people of Havana last night resulted in much shooting and clubbing. From thirty to fifty people were wounded, some seriously. Among the injured is Police Captain Estampas, formerly a colonel in the Cuban army.

The disturbance occurred at a public mulatto ball. A policeman asked a group before the building to move on, when he was set upon and roughly handled. Reserves then coming to the scene, almost a pitched battle followed, several police being seriously hurt.

Later a second conflict was reported in which it was stated two policemen were killed.

QUARANTINE AT SAVANNAH.

Will Probably Pass Into the Hands of the National Government.

Savannah, Ga., March 20.—Negotiations are pending between the National Government and the Savannah city government by the terms of which the city quarantine station may pass under the control of the National Marine Hospital Service. The mayor is favorably disposed towards the transfer of authority, believing the health of the city would be not less safely guarded, and that the local taxpayers would be saved \$20,000 a year, the present cost of the quarantine. The negotiations are the outcome of the detention of government transports from Cuba with soldiers. Arrangements have been perfected whereby all soldiers from the West Indies will be stopped at Fort Pulaski, fourteen miles down the river, for disinfection and detention, hence if the quarantine station passes into national control there will be no open door policy for incoming vessels from any infected port.

TO ISSUE A PRONUNCIAMENTO.

Manila, March 20.—The United States Philippine Commission has held its first meeting, and decided to issue a pronouncement to the inhabitants of the islands.

Of the many clever things in Flannigan's Ball, at the Academy of Music last night, nothing was cleverer than Miss Kattie Hawthorne's "Musical Melodies."