

# The Semi-Weekly Messenger.

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## A PEACE PROTOCOL

Including Evacuation of Cuba and Porto Rico is Agreed Upon.

## TWO IMPORTANT CONFERENCES

The First Not Satisfactory--At the Second Ambassador Cambon Recedes from His Demands and Agrees to the Protocol--Terms of the Agreement--An Armistice Conceded Only on Terms--Names Suggested as Peace Commissioners--More Troops to be Sent to Manila--Naval Promotions to be Recommended.

Washington, August 9.--More than twenty-four hours after it had begun to reach Washington, the Spanish note in answer to the president's peace conditions was presented at the White house by the French ambassador. What the nature of the answer was can only be conjectured at this stage, the secretary of state at the conclusion of the conference making the formal statement that nothing whatever could be said upon the subject. The conference lasted an hour and twenty-five minutes. This prolonged discussion was believed to indicate that the Spanish answer was not satisfactory in all respects, though in just what points it fell short in the expectations of the president, it is impossible to say. It was felt by the observers that had the answer been a complete acceptance of our terms the result would have been made public.

On the other hand, it would be a strained inference to conclude that the answer was unsatisfactory entirely for in that case, according to the president's statement heretofore made, his offer would have been definitely withdrawn and the war resumed with greater energy than before. It would seem that there could scarcely be a good reason in this case for withholding the result of the conference.

On the whole it is rather to be concluded that a middle result was obtained, that Spain was bound to have attached certain conditions to her acceptance of the president's terms, but that the latter was not disposed to regard the injection of the new matter as sufficient in itself to warrant an immediate termination of the peace negotiations. According to this view, the president has taken exception to some of the Spanish conditions, but has allowed a last opportunity for them to be withdrawn or modified.

### THE REPLY LENGTHY.

The reply of the Spanish government is understood to be a document embracing about 1,200 words. It bears the signature of the Spanish minister of foreign affairs, and the form of statement throughout is that of her majesty's government, similar to the American terms, being in the name of the president. The reply delivered to the president was in English, the translation from Spanish to French having been made at Paris, and that from French to English having been made prior to the presentation of the document at the White house. This obviated delays, and gave the president and Secretary Day an English text at the outset of the conference with the ambassador.

### DIVIDED INTO FIVE HEADS.

The Spanish reply is said to be divided into five points, namely: Cuba, Porto Rico, Ladrones Islands, occupation of Manila and the appointment of a peace commission, which are treated in the order named. So far as could be learned no mention is made of the Cuban debt. The retention of arms and ammunition by the Spanish troops comes in for indirect reference under the head of Cuba.

### UNOFFICIAL STATEMENT OF THE REPLY.

In the absence of an official statement it is impossible to give the Spanish position on the several American conditions. But the following is from the best information obtainable in treating each subject. An acceptance in some cases is understood to relate to conditions somewhat different to those laid down by the American government. As to Cuba, the American terms demanded the evacuation of the island, without specifying the future form of government. The Spanish reply is said to accept the principle that Spanish sovereignty over Cuba will terminate, but it is understood to take up the future government of the island, and because of the extent of the Spanish interests there, is said to take the view, either express or implied, that the United States should administer the affairs of the island. As to the time of evacuating Cuba, this is a detail which the Spanish reply is said to regard as among many which can be left to the commission for final determination.

The American conditions as to Porto Rico, the Ladrones, Manila, etc., are believed to be accepted, but the topics are treated at some length, and it will require the full text to show how far the language used may be construed as an acceptance.

The provisions as to the commission is assented to. The commission is to consist of five commissioners on each side, with Paris as the probable meeting place. The Spanish reply is said to develop somewhat the scope of the commission, leaving to it not only the determination of the future of the Philippines, but also the details involved in the arrangement of a lasting peace.

The outcome of the conference is unknown, but the best opinion obtainable is that the matter is still open; that Ambassador Cambon will report to Spain the results of his efforts and the desires of this government and that another reply from Spain as to some details will be necessary to a final conclusion.

There were just four parties to the conference--President McKinley and

Secretary Day on the one side, and M. Cambon, the French ambassador, and his first secretary of legation, M. Thiebaut, presenting the case of Spain. The call of the ambassador had been almost momentarily expected from the moment the cabinet adjourned. The president was in readiness for the call throughout the afternoon, but toward 4 o'clock took a brief respite from his work, and gained a short nap. Several members of the cabinet came, but left after remaining but a few moments in the White house. Shortly after 4 o'clock Secretary Day drove over from the state department and immediately joined the president, announcing that he had received word from the French embassy as to an appointment and it was agreed the president should see M. Cambon at 5:30 o'clock.

When the ambassador and his secretary entered the White house, it was 5:40 o'clock. The president and Secretary Day immediately joined them in the library. From then until a scant hour and a half afterward the four were closeted together, going over the answer of the Sagasta government. It was noticeable that neither Assistant Secretary John Moore or Assistant Secretary Adee, both of whom are authorities on diplomatic phraseology, and one or the other of whom had been called into conference on previous occasions, were present. When the meeting ended it was 7:35 o'clock.

Shortly after 8 o'clock Secretary Day went to his office in the state department, remaining there about an hour. In response to inquiries concerning the result of the conference with M. Cambon, the secretary said no information could be made public tonight. He could not discuss in any way, he said, the answer which had been submitted by Spain.

Secretary Day returned to the White house about 9:30 o'clock. Meantime Secretary Alger and Bliss, Postmaster General Smith and Attorney General Griggs had arrived at the executive mansion. The five members of the cabinet remained in conference with the president until 10:30 o'clock. Assurance was given that the conference did not amount to a formal meeting of the cabinet, although the reply submitted by the Madrid government was discussed.

At the conclusion of the conference Secretary Alger said that nothing could be given out tonight about the reply of the Spanish government, indicating that it was a subject for further discussion than had yet been given it.

It was stated at the war department that the difficulty regarding the Wadsworth had been adjusted. She arrived at Key West when she should have gone to Tampa. Correspondence between Assistant Secretary Melkielehn and Dr. Wyman adjusted the entrance of the Wadsworth at Tampa.

### NO MORE TROOPS NEEDED IN PORTO RICO.

The interesting feature of today's news of the war department was the cable from General Miles stating that he did not need reinforcements and advising that no more troops be sent to Porto Rico. The effect of this dispatch was to stop the embarkation of troops at Newport News and to stop General Wade's corps from sailing.

The disposition of troops which are not now needed for active service was considered at once by the department officials, and the determination was reached that there would be a general movement from the larger camps. Some of these troops will be sent north, where they will be in a cooler climate and stationing at camps which are under consideration, but which have not yet been definitely selected.

### SURGEON GENERAL STERNBERG'S DEFENSE.

The following reply was today issued by Surgeon General Sternberg in defense of the medical department of the army, to Major General Shafter:

When the regular troops were ordered into the field, commanding officers of regiments were directed to take with them a complete field outfit and medical supplies for three months. I enclose herewith a memorandum showing the medical supplies which have been sent to the Fifth army corps at Tampa and the only requisition for medical supplies received from the chief surgeon of the Fifth army corps at Santiago is one dated July 23, 1898, by cable, as follows:

"Cantiago de Cuba, July 23, 1898. "July 23rd, want urgently, quinine tablets, 1,000 bottles; strichnine tablets, 100 bottles; calomel and soda tablets, 100 bottles; calomel, 200 grammes, nitric acid in 2-ounce vials, 100; test tubes, 1,000; Fowler's solution, 1,000. "HARVARD. "Major, Surgeon, U. S. A., Acting Chief Surgeon." The supplies asked for were sent by

the Olivette in addition to a large quantity of medical supplies of various kinds which I had ordered to be put on board that ship and delivered at Santiago. See memorandum attached.

I beg leave to remark that recent advices indicate that a majority of the cases of fever occurring among the troops at Santiago are malarial in character and that there has been an ample supply of quinine, which is the principal remedy required in this form of fever. I have made every effort to anticipate the wants of our sick and wounded soldiers in Cuba without waiting for requisition; but, as we have had communication by cable, the fault does not rest with me, if, owing to the failure on the part of the chief surgeon to forward Shafter's requisition for necessary supplies, there has been a failure to meet the requirements of the sick.

The hospital ship Relief, which arrived at Siboney July 8th, had on board medicines for twenty regiments for six months, calculated upon the basis of the field supply table, and large supplies in addition of the more important medicines, hospital stores, dressings, etc. These supplies were inadequate to meet the requirements of the Olivette July 26th.

I enclose a copy of a letter, just received from Captain Edward L. Munson, assistant surgeon, United States army, which fully accounts for my deficiency of medical supplies at Santiago.

Washington, August 10.--The preliminary negotiations looking toward the confirmation of peace advanced a long step today when the secretary of state and the French ambassador agreed upon the terms upon which future negotiations for a treaty of peace are to be conducted, and reduced these to the form of a protocol. This protocol, it is true, is yet to be signed and is to be submitted to the Spanish government before the formal signatures are affixed, but the administration's view as to the progress made today was set out in Secretary Day's sentence:

"It is expected that this protocol will be executed." There is always the possibility in dealing with the Spanish government that it may recede at the last moment from an implied agreement, but it is not expected that the secretary of state will involve the French ambassador in the difficulties that would follow what to the world would seem to be a repudiation of his benevolent efforts in behalf of Spain.

There must be delay--possibly from twenty-four to thirty days--before the next step can be taken and the protocol made binding upon both the United States and Spain by the attachment of the signatures of the president and the secretary of state and the United States and M. Cambon for Spain. The delay will be largely attributable to physical causes. The protocol is long, it must be translated and turned back and forth into code and cipher, and it must be translated five times before it reaches Madrid through the French foreign office. This work was not begun until late this afternoon after it had consumed the best energies of Assistant Secretary Adee, of the state department, and M. Thiebaut, secretary of the French embassy, in the preparation in formal shape of two copies of the protocol, one in English and one in French.

These were prepared very carefully, the identical variations in the two languages necessitating the greatest caution in order that the identical character of the two copies should be preserved. The length of the protocol imposed a great amount of labor upon the clerks of the state department, who were charged with the work of rendering the original into cipher, so that altogether it is apparent the consumption of time involved in purely mechanical functions will be so considerable as to make the completion of a very early answer improbable.

### TERMS OF THE PROTOCOL.

As to the character of the protocol it can be stated on authority that the terms are in all practical points those set out in the abstract of the president's conditions published from the White house. From this fact it is deduced that the extra conditions or qualifications sought to be imposed by the Spanish government were abandoned, at least in large part, by the French ambassador.

This deduction is supported by the circumstances that in the early morning, and before the conference between Secretary Day and M. Cambon, which resulted in the agreement, there was a prevalent impression, based upon the utterances of public men who talked with the president, that the Spanish answer was unsatisfactory and that the negotiations looked as if they might terminate suddenly.

As this situation changed so suddenly after the conference, it may be fairly assumed that the ambassador abandoned the conditions which the president was reputed to have regarded as unsatisfactory. It is believed that the protocol carried out the intention of the president in relation to the adoption of the NAPOLEONIC POLICY.

On this point the naval contingent is urgent that our government adopt the Napoleon policy of refusing to enter into an armistice without acquiring some substantial pledge to secure the consummation of peace. What they particularly desire is that our government shall demand as a condition of a cessation of hostilities, the surrender to the United States military forces of Morro castle at the entrance of Havana harbor and some such points of vantage at the other important ports in the territory soon to fall under our control.

### THE SELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS.

The peace negotiations are now believed to be advanced to a point where the president has felt warranted in turning his attention to the selection of the commissioners to be charged by the United States with the drafting of a treaty of peace. So far as can be gathered, but one name has been positively determined upon, namely, that of Secretary Day, who will head the commission. Beyond that point there is no certainty, although some prominent names have been brought forward. Mr. Woodford, our last minister to Spain, has been so mentioned, though he is credited with entertaining a desire to return to Madrid in the capacity of United States minister after the war. The two ambitions might

from other regiments. This crowd, they say, was soon brought into camp by an officer of the Third Virginia. Afterwards a much larger number of soldiers gathered to learn the cause of the excitement, but there was no serious disturbance. General Butler, it is said, arrived on the scene near the close of the incident and, owing to highly colored stories that had reached him, took a serious view of the occurrence. A statement signed by twenty-eight officers of the Third Virginia says that great injustice has been done one of the best disciplined regiments in the service by a statement that the Virginians would not obey their officers and were forced to return by other regiments under arms.

R. E. Duff, the hospital steward said to have been killed by the negro, has not been seen since, but is not believed to have suffered fatal injuries. Two deaths have been reported since yesterday. They were Privates C. P. Van Buskirk, Company A, Thirteenth Pennsylvania, and Private C. J. Kurtz, Company C, Third New York.

Despite fords waist deep and muddy roads, the Second division yesterday reached Thoroughfare Gap, Va., covering two days' marches in one day. The troops were drenched and had to camp on ground made soft by rain. Under the circumstances the march was highly successful. The quartermaster's department performed its work well. Twenty-one typhoid fever patients will be taken to Fort Monroe hospital.

### WITHIN THE WALLS OF MANILA

A Night of Terror--Insurgents Throwing Shells into the City--Citizens Frightened at Idea of a General Assault. (Copyright by Associated Press.)

Manila, August 3, via Hong Kong, August 9.--The rumor is current here that the insurgents, fearful that peace will be concluded between Washington and Madrid, and that the Americans will withdraw from the Philippines, are consequently the more strenuous in their desires and efforts to capture Manila. Sunday night there was a heavy bombardment, with heavy modern shells. It is generally believed in the city that the Americans assisted, and the papers publish lists of Americans alleged to have been killed, including some names of rank.

There is also a report that half the Americans have succumbed to fever and this misstatement with others like it, encourages the Spaniards to maintain their suicidal resistance.

On Sunday many shots entered the town. Several reached the citadel itself and it is reported that some ladies were killed. There was a frightful panic inside the walls, women and children shrieking and praying in their terror the whole night through. One shot caused twenty casualties at the Luneta battery, another exploded at the Malate barracks, killing five.

The troops turned out just in time to save Malate fort and the magazine. The insurgents showered large and small shots with such precision that the garrison believed the whole army and fleet were concentrating their fire on the city.

Many Spaniards had previously resolved to cease fighting the moment the Americans began, but the insurgents have subsided and the fort has been reinforced from the barracks. There has been little fighting in other directions. The total Spanish losses are probably 100, but many houses have been seriously damaged.

On Monday evening there was a furious fusillade in every direction. Telephone inquiries were sent out from headquarters to various outposts. No answer was received from El Paso, and accordingly a squad of horsemen hastened thither. In the darkness and storm the sentries fired and wounded two. A few such nights would drive the Spaniards inside the citadel and small shots with such precision that the prospect of prolonged devastation and slaughter, with the inevitable destruction of the town and its inhabitants unless the Americans hastened to close in.

Sunday 1,500 houses at Tondo were burned and the flames, driven by a strong gale, threatened the whole of Manila, but they were finally extinguished, mainly through the efforts of the fire brigade organized by the British merchants at Manila.

The British consul here died of dysentery yesterday but his remains cannot be buried in the protestant cemetery on account of the insurgents.

### Wreck of the Steamer Jessie

Seattle, Wash., August 10.--Details state that the river steamer Jessie, on the river steamer Jessie, of the Columbia Exploration Company, which foundered in the Kuskowim river, Alaska, during a severe storm July 28th. It is thought all were lost. The steamer Jessie at the time of the disaster had in tow the barge Minerva loaded with supplies.

### TROOPS ORDERED TO DIFFERENT CAMPS.

The secretary of war has ordered one division of the First army corps from Chattanooga to Knoxville, Tenn., and another division of the same corps from Chickamauga to Lexington, Ky. A division of the Fourth corps now at Tampa has been ordered to Huntsville, Ala. The Second division (General Davis) of the Second army corps now at Manassas, Va., has been ordered to Middletown, Pennsylvania. The advisability of marching the troops from Chickamauga to Knoxville and Lexington is under consideration. The First Ohio and the Fifth United States cavalry are ordered from Tampa to Montauk Point. The Fourth Kentucky, Colonel Colson commanding, has been ordered from Lexington to Jacksonville and attached to the Seventh corps. The movement of these troops is in accordance with the plans of the war department to break up the large camps and spread the troops thinly over the country.

### THE THIRD VIRGINIA REGIMENT ROW.

The officers and men of the Third Virginia are indignant because of what they say are false reports in regard to a disturbance at Camp Alger Monday evening. They say that the trouble started in a report that a hospital steward had been murdered by a colored man. The crowd which crossed the sentry lines, they say, was composed of about thirty Virginia men, fifteen or twenty from the First Connecticut and ten to fifteen soldiers

from other regiments. This crowd, they say, was soon brought into camp by an officer of the Third Virginia. Afterwards a much larger number of soldiers gathered to learn the cause of the excitement, but there was no serious disturbance. General Butler, it is said, arrived on the scene near the close of the incident and, owing to highly colored stories that had reached him, took a serious view of the occurrence. A statement signed by twenty-eight officers of the Third Virginia says that great injustice has been done one of the best disciplined regiments in the service by a statement that the Virginians would not obey their officers and were forced to return by other regiments under arms.

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### THE SITUATION AT MANILA

As Reported to the London Times by Its Correspondent--His Account of the Spanish Attack on Our Lines.

London, August 10.--The correspondent of the Times at Cavite, with General Greene's brigade, under date of August 3rd, says:

"A heavy monsoon has been blowing since Sunday, and deluges of rain have greatly increased the difficulty of foraging and moving the United States troops and multiplied the discomforts in camp which were already most unendurable.

"As I anticipated, General Green's brigade is the focus of the active land campaign. Already the troops are in constant and close touch with the enemy. On Friday morning a battalion consisting of the First Colorado under Lieutenant Colonel McCoy, with four guns of the Utah battery, commanded by Captain Young, grandson of the Mormon prophet, occupied the line fifty yards in advance of the insurgents between the beach and Calla Real, and 1,300 yards from a formidable earthwork situated at the southern end of Malate, the foreign residential quarter of Manila. After sixteen hours of continuous labor, the work of entrenchment was completed, the enemy not firing a shot until the Americans indulged in sharp shooting.

"Saturday was comparatively quiet, and so was Sunday until midnight, when the Tenth Pennsylvania, Colonel Hawkins commanding, occupied the trenches after some desultory picket firing. At 11:30 o'clock p. m. the enemy, estimated at 2,500 strong, opened fire vigorously, and covered the dense undergrowth. Their movements were further hidden by the floods of rain. The Pennsylvanians met the attack with a succession of volleys, covering the right with two companies stationed in the swamp beyond the entrenchments.

"After about three quarters of an hour, two companies of the Third regular artillery, under Major O'Hara, arrived at double-quick to relieve the Pennsylvanians, whose ammunition was almost exhausted. They soon silenced the enemy's fire. The first California, under Colonel Smith, and the First Colorado, under Colonel Hale, acted as supports.

"The affair lasted two hours. But notwithstanding the tremendous fusillade and the heavy shell fire only ten Americans were killed and forty-six wounded, though there were some casualties among the supports, while during the advance of the relieving battalions, the only officers wounded were Captain Richter, of the First California, wounded seriously in the head, and Captain Hobbs, of the Third artillery, wounded slightly in the leg.

"Although the engagement scarcely attained the importance of a battle, it thoroughly tested the quality of the United States troops and had an excellent effect, stimulating their zeal with enthusiasm, and inspiring them with confidence.

"The Spaniards, whose losses in the engagement are not known, are adopting tactics intended to irritate the Americans. Every night they maintain an annoying fire. They have now got the true range of the earthworks and their shell and shrapnel fire is very accurate.

### Report of the Conditions of the Medical Department at Santiago.

Washington, August 8.--Surgeon General Sternberg, of the army, has received a report from Assistant Surgeon Edward L. Munson, concerning the conditions at Santiago pertaining to the medical department, about which so much complaint has been made. This report asserts that medical and hospital supplies were loaded on transports at Tampa in quantities sufficient to meet the demands of the Santiago expedition, that the landing on Cuban soil was made as rapidly as possible, but on account of lack of adequate transportation facilities only in limited quantities, and that after the troops left the ships, the latter only partially unloaded, proceeded to sea where they have to indefinitely. Reference is made to subsequent attempts to get hospital supplies ashore rendered abortive for a time at least by the inability to obtain transportation.

### The Railway Mail Service Benefit Association

The United States Railway Mail Service Mutual Benefit Association will hold its annual meeting in Atlanta, Ga., September 6th. Messrs. Jno. Albright and H. D. Burkhead of this city, who are in the railway mail between Wilmington and North Carolina section division.

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