

OFFICIAL REPORTS

Of Commanding Officers of the Navy During the Spanish War Made Public.

UNKNOWN HERO OF THE NAVY

Ensign H. H. Ward as a Volunteer Goes Into the Heart of the Enemy's Country—Disguised, He Takes His Station at Cadiz and Keeps the Navy Department Posted as to the Movements of the Spanish Navy—Admiral Montojo's Report to His Government of the Battle of Manila.

Washington, December 21.—The official reports of all commanding officers of the navy during the war, have been compiled and published by the navy department. While treating events that have already figured in official reports that have reached the public the documents still contain many minor reports that throw side lights on interesting phases of the war. Almost in the beginning in the brief record of the proceedings of the naval war board, an unknown hero is brought to light in the person of Ensign H. H. Ward, who at the beginning of the war was on duty in the navigation bureau, with Lieutenant Whitley on the heavy duties of assistant chief of the bureau. He volunteered for secret service duty and his exploits, about which nothing has been said in the past, will be placed on record beside those of Lieutenant Rowan in Cuba, and Lieutenant Whitley in Porto Rico. Within a week after the declaration of war, Ensign Ward disguised himself and went right into the heart of the enemy's country, making his headquarters in Cadiz, the principal Spanish naval station, and informing the navy department here of the actual strength of the Spanish naval vessels and their movements. Then he went to the West Indies and reported everything he saw, going on there of importance to the American navy. Next, he went again into the enemy's country in disguise, this time to Porto Rico, where he was arrested as a suspicious character and a spy. By adroitness he managed to secure his release and escaping from San Juan cabled the navy department a full statement of the defenses there, and the preparations making for the reception of the Spanish fleet under Cervera. All this time the officials of the navy department were under the impression that Mr. Ward was engaged in installing a system of coast signals on the New England coast.

While Ward was in Porto Rico Ensign Buck, another attaché of the navigation bureau, was on the shores of the Mediterranean in disguise watching every movement of the squadron of Admiral Camara, which started for the Philippines, but turned back. Of the strategy board itself it is said that it was part of its duty to keep informed of all of the movements and plans of the Spanish navy, and to keep secret agents and it is known that the navy was thus informed of all important movements. At times, however, information was conflicting and decisions had to be made as to which report was true. The reports of the famous naval battle of Cavite include one from United States Consul Williams, a rather unusual thing in a report of a naval character, but fully justified by its picture of the Spanish fleet under Cervera and Dewey's great victory. Following it is a report to his government on the same engagement by the commander-in-chief of the ill-fated Spanish fleet, Montojo. The admiral depicts the bad condition of the Spanish fleet, and that the cruiser Castilla was incapable of maneuvering on account of her bad condition, while the defenses at the entrance to Subig bay were very backward. With this he said that the guns which should have been mounted were delayed a month and a half, and he was no less disgusted to find that reliance was had for the defense of the port on a few cannons, not properly placed. Finding Subig bay defenseless, the Spanish squadron repaired to the bay of Manila to meet battle under less unfavorable conditions. The admiral avoided the city, not wishing to draw fire upon it, and prepared his fleet for action, painting his vessels a dark gray and having the fires spread and springs on the cables. He says that the force of Dewey's vessels, leaving out transports, amounted to 21,410 tons, 49,290 horse power, 363 guns (many rapid-fire), 1,750 men and an average of seventeen miles. Against this the power of his only five effective ships was 10,110 tons, 11,200 horse power, 76 guns (very short of rapid-fire), 1,515 crew and a maximum speed of twelve miles. The admiral describes in vivid language the terrible effect of the American onslaught on the Spanish vessels. He says: "The Americans made most rapid progress. They came upon us numerous projectiles, as the three cruisers to the end of the line devoted themselves almost entirely to fight the Christina, my flagship. A short time after the action commenced one shell exploded in the fore-castle and that out of action all of those who served the four rapid-fire cannons; meantime another shell exploded in the orlop, setting fire to the crews' bags. At 7:30 o'clock one shell destroyed completely the steering gear. Another destroyed the mizzen, bringing down my flag and ensign. Another shell exploded on the poop and put out of action nine men. A fresh shell exploded in the officers' cabin, covering the hospital with blood, destroying the wounded who were being treated there. Another exploded in the ammunition room. I had to flood the magazines when the cartridges began to explode. One large shell penetrated the fire room, putting out of action one master gunner and twelve men serving the guns. Another rendered useless the starboard bow gun, and

IMPORTANT RAILWAY LINK

A Road to be Built from the Cranberry Mines to a Point on the Carolina Central Railroad—The Advantages to Wilmington of this New Road.

(Special to The Messenger.) Raleigh, N. C., December 21.—Your correspondent this afternoon had a specially interesting interview with General Robert F. Hoke. The latter said: "I will apply to the legislature for a charter for a railway from the Cranberry iron mines to Lincolnton or to some other point on the Carolina Central railway near Lincolnton. It will be an extension of the East Tennessee and Western North Carolina railway, which now connects Cranberry with Johnson City, Tenn. It will be an important link and particularly so to Charlotte and Wilmington. It will give Charlotte a direct line to the nearest great coal deposit, that at Big Stone Gap. It will make Wilmington a coaling station, much nearer our new possessions and at which ships can coal without passing Hatteras. The Stone coal is the most southern deposit of the best steaming coal. "There is now a road from Cranberry to the Big Stone Gap mines. Active work is in progress at the Cranberry mines now. The ore is being shipped to Johnston City and there smelted. We are now filling a 20,000 ton order for the smelters at Carnegie, a new place near Johnston City. "I want to say that I consider the Cranberry ore the best in the country for the manufacture of the cast steel cannon which Dr. Gatling has invented. The war department tests show the average tenacity of Cranberry iron to be 71,000 pounds to the square inch, while the government requirement as to steel is only 37,000 pounds."

THE CABINET IN SESSION It decides Upon the Instructions to be Sent General Otis—More Volunteers to be Mustered Out. Washington, December 21.—The cabinet today discussed the instructions to be sent to General Otis, at Manila, which will be promulgated there as a proclamation by the president. These instructions are similar in import to those sent to our officers at Santiago upon the occupation of that city by United States troops. They assure the Philippines that the United States assumes military control of the Philippine islands in a spirit of peace and friendship and that all civil rights and privileges that they have hitherto enjoyed will be continued and that it is the purpose of this government to relieve in all possible ways the unjust burdens they have borne, and asks for the co-operation of all good citizens in maintaining order to the end that peace and prosperity may be restored. So far as is practicable, all efficient officers will be retained in the official positions they now occupy and fair and impartial justice will be administered to all. It has been decided not to give out the text of the instructions to General Otis till about the time of their arrival at Manila, which will be a month hence. The instructions also make temporary arrangements for coasting trade, such as in the case of Cuba.

The cabinet also decided that existing conditions justified a further reduction of the military forces of the United States, and the secretary of war was instructed to arrange for the immediate muster out of 50,000 volunteers. Nothing definite has been decided by the war department as to the regiments which will be included in the 50,000 volunteers to be mustered out. It is said, however, that they will be distributed as equably as possible among the several states and to a general way the first regiments mustered in will be the first to go out.

Late to bed and early to rise, prepares a man for his home in the skies. But early to bed and a Little Early Riser, the pill that makes life longer and better, and wiser. R. R. Bellamy.

The Hawaiian Annexation Bill. Washington, December 21.—The senate committee on foreign relations today concluded its revision of the bill providing a territorial government for Hawaii, and Senator Cullom reported the changes to the senate. There were numerous changes, the most important being as follows: The section defining citizenship was amended by striking out the word "white" and also the explicit reference to Portuguese and left to read as follows: "That all persons who were citizens of the republic of Hawaii on August 12, 1898, are hereby declared to be citizens of the United States."

The following restriction on the issuance of bonds is inserted: "No shall any bond or other instrument of any indebtedness be issued unless made redeemable in not more than five years and payable in not more than fifteen years from the date of issue, thereof." Section 103 in regard to the crown lands was changed so as to eliminate the clause confirming all valid leases now in existence. There are many technical changes, and in all cases where Hawaii is referred to as "the government of Hawaii" it is changed so as to make it the territory of Hawaii.

Overcome evil with good. Overcome your coughs and colds with One Minute Cough Cure. It is so good children cry for it. It cures croup, bronchitis, pneumonia, gripe and all throat and lung diseases. R. R. Bellamy.

THE SPANISH TREATY

No Doubt of Ratification by the Senate.

THE CONTEST TO COME.

Over the Form of Government to be Established for the Philippines After the Cession by Spain Has Been Accepted—An Effort to be Made to Apply to This Territory the Principles Contained in the Resolution of Last April Regarding our Attitude Toward Cuba. New York, December 21.—Clark Howell, a member of the democratic national committee from Georgia, and editor of the Atlanta Constitution, after consulting with the leaders of both of the political parties at Washington telegraphed as follows to his paper tonight: "With the adjournment of congress for the holidays the final decision on the peace treaty is as clear as it will be after a vote has been taken in the senate. Two weeks ago the matter was in doubt. Today it is certain that the treaty will be ratified. "Mr. Bryan has been in Washington for several days and has conferred frequently with the democratic leaders in both the senate and the house. He has advised ratification of the treaty and he is outspoken in the opinion that aside from the question of national obligation it is a matter of party policy for the democrats to throw no obstacle in the way of ratification. There are leading democrats in both the senate and house, who, less than a week ago were in doubt as to whether or not democrats should assist in ratifying the treaty; more than that, some of them were outspoken in the opinion that it was perhaps better to reject it. Today, however, these democratic leaders take an open position that the treaty should be ratified. No one who had studied the situation from the inside can have a reasonable doubt. It must not be understood that the ratification of the treaty will carry with it the assumption that all those who vote affirmatively are in favor of national expansion across the Pacific. Of the senators who will vote in favor of the treaty there will be republicans as well as democrats who are opposed in principle as well as in theory to transoceanic expansion of our national domain. They take, however, and very properly, the view that the question of ratification is not a question of principle, but a question of expediency, and that after the treaty has been ratified and Spain has been eliminated as a factor in the Philippine problem, it will be time enough to consider the policy to be pursued in dealing with the Philippines and just here will come the real contest on the question of expansion."

Mr. Howell then says that after the treaty has been finally disposed of a resolution will be introduced making declaration of the proposed policy of this government in dealing with the Philippines and that this resolution will be framed very much on the basis of the Cuban resolution adopted coincident with the declaration of war, in which it was declared that the policy of this government would be to give the people of Cuba a free and independent government of their own.

Mr. Howell says that the determination to put forward a resolution of this kind as a rallying point for the expansion and anti-expansion elements, both democratic and republican that takes from the consideration of the people such a much debated question as the Philippines and just here will come the real contest on the question of expansion.

In Danger of Lynching. Decatur, Ala., December 21.—William Simms, a former private in Company E, of the First Alabama regiment, who shot and killed Bud Norton, of Town Creek, on the 19th instant at a county dance, is safely lodged in jail at Moulton, the county seat and has not been lynched as reported.

Last night while Simms was in jail at Town Creek, Bill Norton, brother of the deceased, together with several relatives and friends were in the vicinity of the jail, presumably for the purpose of lynching Simms, but the crowd was dispersed by the sheriff and at 1:30 o'clock this morning Simms was taken to Moulton.

Bud Norton was a former liquor dealer and owned considerable property around Town Creek. The sympathies of the surrounding country, which is much wrought up, are all on the side of the Nortons.

A cough is not like a fever. It does not have to run a certain course. Cure it quickly and effectually with One Minute Cough Cure, the best remedy for all ages and for the most severe cases. We recommend it because it's good. R. R. Bellamy.

Fatal Collision of Express Trains. New York, December 21.—Two of the fastest express trains of the Pennsylvania road came into collision early this morning at Colonia, a small station in New Jersey, just beyond Rahway. The early Washington express, going at the rate of forty miles an hour, crashed into the rear end of the Pittsburg flyer, a Chicago and New York through train, tearing the rear car into kindling wood, killing two persons and badly injuring ten others. A heavy fog prevailed at the time and the Pittsburg flyer was going slowly, while the engineer was endeavoring to read the signals. The engine driver of the Washington express supposed he had a clear track.

GENERAL MILES

Appears Before the War Investigation Commission—He Tells About Others' Shortcomings in the Santiago Campaign.

Washington, December 21.—General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the United States army, and General Wesley Merritt, commander of the American forces at the capture of Manila, were the principal figures before the war investigation commission today. General Miles responded to the summons of the committee only after several days' consideration. He was accompanied by his own stenographer. His examination was comparatively brief and not sensational. "Are you will to be sworn?" he was asked. "I think," was the reply, "that I can say what I have to say without being sworn."

General Miles gave his evidence in a clear, unhesitating way and went into details regarding both the Santiago and Porto Rico expeditions, as opened by describing the railroad confusion in getting the war munitions to Tampa and pointed out the lack of government storehouse facilities there. He said when the transports were loaded it was found impossible to put more than 15,000 men aboard and they were equipped as well as possible under the circumstances. "It was most fortunate," he said, "that the transports had good weather. If they had encountered a severe storm the loss of lives or the suffering at least, must have been fearful. As it was fair weather, the men below, crowded in with the mules and supplies, could get on deck, which would have been impossible otherwise."

The commissary stores taken, he said, were sufficient, but the medical supplies were inadequate. He had left the loading, except for general directions, to the corps commander, General Shafter. He found just before sailing that there were a number of pontoon boats being taken which would be utterly useless for the purpose and he himself had secured two barges from the owners there and had taken other steps, but the supply of such boats taken was very inadequate. "The expedition," he continued, "should have been furnished with launches, naphtha or steam, or tugs, for towing barges from the ships to the shore."

At Santiago the supply of tentage and food was very limited. "Were the medical supplies at that time sufficient for the needs of the command?" he was asked. In reply he read a dispatch from General Shafter on August 4th, which referred to a chronic scarcity of medicines, and said that four men had just died from lack of medicines. There was at no time, said General Miles, sufficient medicines for the troops. He remembered seeing one train for the sick in a drenching rain, with no covering over the wagons.

General Beaver—"From what you learned and observed while there, do you think there was at any time a sufficient medical supply?" General Miles—"Of medical men and materials?" General Beaver—"Yes."

General Miles—"No, sir." The witness stated that the hospital accommodations were only of a temporary character. He said that the shelter tents did not shelter, questioned as to the character of the facilities for transporting the wounded, he said that they were taken in wagons.

General Beaver—"Do you know if any of the wounded were lying exposed to the weather?" General Miles—"Some were exposed in being sent down to the hospitals. I saw one train of wounded men driving along in the drenching rain with nothing to shelter them."

He had taken measures personally to correct matters and on July 12th had telegraphed for a well equipped corps of pier and bridge builders, etc., and had ordered places burned. General Miles said the transportation facilities were used to carry supplies to some 15,000 to 20,000 refugees from Santiago and about 5,000 Cuban troops. "This," he stated in answer to a question, "was not expected, because I had cautioned General Shafter to keep the men out of the Spanish buildings of every character, and to keep the men away from the natives. Had we not done as he did the army would have been much better supplied." His army in Porto Rico, he said, had been supplied in a way with quartermaster's and commissary stores, but not in the best way. At Porto Rico he had asked that fixed rations be sent, but instead they were sent down in bulk without invoices.

General Miles characterized the refrigerator beef, of which there were 227 tons sent, as "embalmed beef," and said the canned fresh beef, of which 198,000 pounds had been shipped there, was condemned by officers whose commands used it.

"Who fixed the beef as an army ration?" "You will have to ask some one here in Washington. You had better ask the secretary of war or the commissary general. It was sent as food. If they had not taken that they would have had to go hungry. If they had sent paymasters down there, as I asked, we could have bought food, but they did not do that."

General Miles suggested that the food was sent to his large army under pretense of an experiment. He called attention to the fact that good fresh beef could be bought in Porto Rico for 6 cents a pound, American money, and he suggested that it might be interesting to compare this with the cost of the refrigerator beef together with the expense of transportation. He said he did not know what the chemicals used in treating the beef were responsible for the great sickness in the American army. Reports which he had received concerning it were to the effect that this beef had an odor like an embalmed dead body.

Captain Howell—"Were these reports ever brought to the attention of the commissary general?" General Miles—"Reports were frequently sent to him, but he seemed to insist the beef be used." Captain Howell—"Was the matter

ROYAL Baking Powder. Made from pure cream of tartar. Safeguards the food against alum. Alum baking powders are the greatest menaces to health of the present day.

ever brought to the attention of the secretary of war? I requested that no more of it be sent. If a supply of it were sent to the men in this country, I would prohibit their use of it. I am having an investigation made now of the matter. I thought that you gentlemen would get on it." He said he had never complained to the secretary of war as to the condition of the beef, but had asked that the supply be stopped. General Miles stated the first plans for sending troops to Cuba, were not his, as he was opposed to sending troops to Cuba until Cervera's fleet was located. The question at the outset was a naval problem; and the dispatch of troops, on his judgment, there hinged on which fleet should destroy the other. If the Spanish, he thought, had destroyed the United States fleet the United States would have been blocked for number of years. "If we had had a force in Cuba then we would have lost it as it would have been impossible to get it back here." He was also opposed to sending a large force to places like Havana or Matanzas because of the large percentage of yellow fever deaths there.

NEW SECRETARY OF INTERIOR

The President Appoints Hon. Ethan A. Hitchcock to Succeed Secretary Bliss.

Washington, December 21.—The president today nominated Ethan A. Hitchcock, of Missouri, to be secretary of the interior. The nomination was immediately confirmed by the senate. Mr. Hitchcock is at present ambassador to Russia. He was appointed minister more than a year ago and when the rank was raised to an embassy he was appointed ambassador. Mr. Hitchcock is a business man of St. Louis and was for some time an extensive plate glass manufacturer. He is a great-grandson of Ethan Allen, of revolutionary fame. His ancestors were from Vermont, but his father moved south and Mr. Hitchcock was born a Mobile, Ala. He is a brother of Henry Hitchcock, a lawyer of note, Senator Proctor, who was in St. Petersburg during the past summer, says he is very popular in the diplomatic corps and among the acquaintances he had made abroad. Mr. Hitchcock is expected here in February.

Secretary Bliss, in an interview with the Associated Press said today: "It has been understood for some time that it would be my wish to retire from public life on the conclusion of the war. Now that the treaty of peace has been signed, my request to be relieved will be granted, but I shall await the arrival of my successor before severing my connection with the interior department. I have been in most hearty accord with the president in his policy, through the trying days in which he sought to avoid war, and while as commander-in-chief, he was conducting the war that came, notwithstanding his effort to prevent it. I believe most thoroughly in the course he is now pursuing for maintaining the honor of the country by securing the just results of a successful war and I shall leave my associates of the cabinet, of the department and my many friends in Washington with great regret, but private and personal reasons make my retirement a necessity."

Constipation prevents the body from ridding itself of waste matter. De Witt's Little Early Rise will remove the trouble and cure Sick Headache, Biliousness, Inactive Liver and clear the complexion. Small sugar coat, don't gripe or cause nausea. R. R. Bellamy.

Shot by Drunken Soldiers

Meridian, Miss., December 21.—Lucy Thomas and her 4-year-old boy were shot at Eutaw, Ala., today, by soldiers of the First Missouri volunteers who were mustered out at Columbia, Tenn., yesterday. The child was shot above the left eye and is not expected to recover. The mother received a painful wound in the arm. The soldiers were drunk and disorderly, recklessly shooting into every house as they passed. The woman and child were standing in the door of their home and proved an easy mark for the ruffians. The firing was done from the train on which the soldiers were enroute home and was kept up at other places along the line, but, fortunately, without further fatalities. Governor Johnston, of Alabama, has offered a reward of \$100 for the arrest and conviction of every man implicated in the shooting.

An Avalanche in Chilkoot Pass

Seattle, Wash., December 20.—News has just been received of a slide on the Chilkoot pass, in which six people were killed. Five bodies have been recovered as follows: Mrs. Darling and two sons, of Lake Linderman; Bert Johns, Juneau; Harry Shaw, of Skagway. The slide occurred December 19th.