

# The Wilmington Messenger.

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WILMINGTON, N. C., SUNDAY, AUGUST 7, 1898.

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## SPAIN YET DELAYS

### In Making Answer to the Peace Terms Proposed by President McKinley.

## AN EARLY ANSWER EXPECTED

#### Call at the State Department from the French Secretary of Legation Starts a False Rumor--The Delay Ascribed to Sagasta's Efforts to Reconcile the Spanish Populace to the Existing Conditions--Shafter's Army to Begin Embarking Today.

#### No Change to be Made in the Eastern Squadron--Senator Bacon's Protest.

Washington, August 6.--Just a week ago today, Ambassador Cambon, received from the president the terms of peace that would be granted by the United States. When the state department closed its doors this afternoon, the Spanish government had not specified whether or not it was prepared to accept these conditions. Every day during the past week an answer has been expected and that same feeling of expectancy prevailed at the close of the week. It is significant that all responsible government officials are satisfied that the reply will be an acceptance of our terms which it does come.

About 2:30 P. M. Secretary Theobald of the French embassy, called at the state department, thus giving rise to the supposition that he was seeking to make an appointment for the ambassador to meet the president to deliver the Spanish answer. This, however, turned out to be erroneous. Mr. Theobald's business being connected with some of the recent orders of French merchant vessels by the blocking fleet, and relating in no way to the Spanish peace negotiations. The fact that Secretary Day, who had contemplated a trip to Atlantic City this afternoon, did not leave town, was also the basis for another guess that he had noticed that the Spanish note was coming immediately and that his presence would be required here. As a matter of fact, the secretary was detained beyond his train by his reception of the Italian ambassador, who had a long conference over the Corrucci case.

The expectation of an early answer is still cherished, and it was the belief of this office when the day closed that there is no likelihood of its receipt by the president before Monday. It was rumored in some quarters that the Spanish government had sent along a note which it had accepted of the principal American terms and would be prepared to make final answer Monday, but the French embassy, which would be the only recipient of any such notice, gave a very quick and effective denial of this report.

While all this delay is deprecated, it is realized that Sagasta probably is making the struggle of his life to bring the Spanish party leaders to the point where they will agree to stand by him in his acceptance of the terms of peace. This fact tends to secure the indulgence of our government in some degree and this is more readily extended in consideration of the fact that so far from having surrendered any advantage in agreeing to discuss the peace, we are gaining something substantial every day in the prosecution of the campaign as revealed by the reports from Porto Rico. The naval plans of operations are also moving steadily forward, and notwithstanding statements to the effect that the projected cruise against the Spanish coast by the eastern squadron has been abandoned, Secretary Long stated this afternoon that no change had been made in the plans of the department respecting this squadron. Up to this point not the slightest complaint has reached the department respecting the management of the Porto Rican campaign, a tribute to general Miles' ability. No word has come of soldiers without food or ammunition or of sick men without doctors or medicine, nor is the inward movement of the American army delayed by the lack of artillery, owing to general Miles' attention upon keeping his artillery in the very vanguard and giving personal attention to the commissary and quartermasters' departments.

### SHAFTER'S ARMY TO EMBARK TODAY.

The war department officials now say that Shafter's army will begin embarking in earnest tomorrow, the transports which are arriving being obliged to take on stores for the home-ward trip. These, however, will be limited in quantity in order to avoid unnecessary delay and only ten days' rations will be placed aboard each ship. Colonel Hecker, in charge of transportation, said that he believed it would be scarcely necessary for the transports to make two trips, for, in addition to the ships already at Santiago, there will be available for transport purposes the steamers which are carrying to Santiago the immature regiments which are to replace the Fifth army corps at that point.

The Merritt Wrecking Company has informed the navy department that the wreckers have succeeded in floating the Spanish cruiser, Marie Teresa, and are about to start her under her own steam to Norfolk. The navy has nothing to do with this voyage, the wreckers contracted to deliver any of the vessels of Cervena's fleet that might be recovered, at Norfolk. It is expected that the battle-scarred Spanish ship will attract thousands of curious visitors when she reaches Hampton Roads. It is fully expected at the navy department that the Marie Teresa will require very extensive repairs, having suffered not only from shot, shell and fire, but also from a month's submersion in the quickly flowing water of south Cuba. However, the repairs will

### IN CASE AT JACKSONVILLE

#### Orders to be First North Carolina Regiment Recalled Paid Off--A Soldier Seriously Injured.

Jacksonville, Fla., August 6.--Orders have been received for the First North Carolina regiment in camp here, and the First Alabama and Second Texas regiments, now at Miami, to communicate with General Washington and to hold themselves in readiness for early departure for Porto Rico. These orders were sent from Washington before the prospects for peace were so favorable as they are now, and it is surmised that there may be a change and that the regiments will remain in the state. Brigadier General W. W. Gordon and staff of the First division, Seventh army corps, have come up from Tampa and taken up their headquarters here.

#### NO REPLY FROM SPAIN.

Spain's answer to the American demands has not been received by the French ambassador up to midnight tonight. M. Cambon and his staff had been awaiting it throughout the evening, at that hour were convinced that it would not arrive before tomorrow morning, and the members of his staff went to their homes.

#### The Wreck of Sable Isle

St. Johns, N. E., August 6.--Inspector O'Reilly, of the revenue police, arrived here from Tilt Cove today. He states that he examined the man Jenkins who brought the news that a marine disaster in the loss of a pine steamer, Jenkins, who lives at Bryant's, Cove, thirteen miles across Pencil peninsula, says a schooner from Quipron island, off the northern extremity of Newfoundland, at the entrance to the strait of Belle Isle, arrived there and reported that on the previous night, while in the strait of Belle Isle, she saw the lights of a steamer and heard its terrible crash, followed quickly by screams as victims of a marine disaster. Then there was absolute silence, as if all had sunk. Jenkins walked across the peninsula to convey the news, but had neglected to question the crew of the schooner closely as to details. He was sent back by the officer to make further inquiries, but the schooner had sailed again for the fishing grounds. Inspector O'Reilly says that a majority of the people in that section believe a disaster has occurred.

#### Troops Ship for Manila

San Francisco, August 6.--The transport steamer Lakewood and Charles G. Nelson, bearing five companies of the First New York Volunteers and the Second United States volunteers engineers, sailed for Honolulu today.

#### IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE DAY.

- No Answer Has Yet Been Received from Spain on the Peace Question.
- Shafter's Troops Will Begin Embarking for Montauk Point Today.
- The Maria Teresa is About to Start Under Her Own Steam for Norfolk.
- Many of the Auxiliary Warships and Old Monitors will Soon be Retired from Service.
- Admiral Cervera is Invited by the People of Greensboro, Ala., to pay a Visit to that Town.
- The Marine Camp at Camp McCalla Has Been Broken up.
- A Member of the Second North Carolina Volunteers at Fort McPherson, While on Guard Duty, Shoots a Sleep Walker.
- Up to Midnight Last Night M. Cambon had Received no Reply from Spain.
- Energetic Relief Measures are Needed at St. Michaels, Alaska.
- The First Regiment of Volunteers Will sail from New York for Porto Rico Today.
- Captain Clark, of the Oregon, is Invalided by a Medical Board.
- The Navy Department is Determined to Send a First Class Fleet to European Ports.

#### Cervera's Letter to the People of Greensboro, Ala.

Mobile, Ala., August 6.--In response to an invitation extended in the name of the people of Greensboro, Ala., to visit Lieutenant Hobson's home, Admiral Cervera writes under date of August 2nd, saying:

"I thank you very much and also the citizens of Greensboro for the kind expressions contained in your letter and you will allow me to say that it is I who should render thanks to you with the greatest pleasure for the kind and generous treatment which I am receiving at the hands of the American people. It would be very gratifying to me to accept your invitation to visit Greensboro, where was born the brave Lieutenant Richmond Pearson Hobson, but it will be impossible for me to do so, for as soon as the war is ended it will be obligatory upon me to return immediately to Spain to account for my conduct which must be judged as provided for by law.

"Nevertheless, I shall not fail to carry through all my life the remembrance of such brave officers as Lieutenant Hobson and also the flattering invitation tendered me by the city of his birth.

"I subscribe myself, etc., 'PASQUEL CERVERA'.

#### A Challenge for the America's Cup

London, August 6.--Sir Thomas Lipton, in the course of an interview with the Associated Press this evening said for a race for the America's Cup.

#### The Mill Closing Scheme Falls

Fall River, Mass., August 6.--The movement which was begun here last month for its purpose, the closing of twenty-five or thirty of the principal cloth mills of this city for four weeks has failed. The Fall River Cotton Manufacturers Association held a meeting this forenoon and voted to abandon the attempt to agree on a general curtailment policy. In view of decision not to push the agreement near to all the mills will continue in operation though several may stop independently for a time.

About 200,000 pieces of cloth were disposed of here this week, thereby considerably lessening the surplus on hand.

## THEY WILL FIGHT

### Foreign Consuls at San Juan Advise the Spaniards to Surrender.

## TROOPS CONTINUE TO ADVANCE

#### The Spaniards Make a Bold Front of Determination to Resist--Court Martial of Commander of Ponce--Spanish Forces Driven Back.

#### A Cablegram from Admiral Sampson--General Tone of Health of the Ships' Crews Lowered--First Transport Leaves Santiago with Troops for Montauk.

Ponce, Island of Porto Rico, August 6.--Following the Island of St. Thomas, D. W. I. August 6.--(Delayed in transmission.) United States Consul Hanna, has received information that the foreign consuls at Santiago, Porto Rico, the capital of this island, advised the Spanish authorities to surrender the island to the American troops. The Spaniards, however, in reply announced that they had resolved to fight. Thereupon the consuls notified the Spanish commander, Captain Machuca, that they would establish a neutral zone between Pagan and Rio Piedras, in which to gather the foreign residents and their portable property in order to insure their safety in the event of a bombardment of the place by the American forces. The consuls sent a similar notification to General Miles. In spite of this brave talk, it is understood that the Spanish officers of prior rank have refused to fight or to imperil their lives in the defense of San Juan.

Colonel San Martin, who evacuated Ponce on the approach of the American army of invasion, is reported to have been tried by court-martial and shot, and Colonel Puig, who evacuated Guanica when the Americans landed, committed suicide at Utuado, on the road between Adjuntas and Aracibo, on the north coast, yesterday.

General Miles held a conference of war with his generals today and then rode away, going in the direction of the front.

A battalion of the Eleventh regular infantry has been sent out under General Roy Stone. The American army moves forward in three columns. The United States transports Massachusetts, which went ashore on the coast, has been floated.

Washington, August 6.--Late today the first news dispatches came to the war department from General Miles. It was as follows:

"General Brooke reports Hains' brigade, Fourth Ohio and Third Indiana, captured Guayama yesterday. Slight skirmish with enemy in and about town. Enemy's strength estimated at about 500; not ascertained if any of them regulars; resistance not strong. Privates John O. Cordiner and Robert W. Rice, both wounded, both legs below thigh; T. W. Wolcott, right foot; none serious; all Fourth Ohio. One Spaniard killed, two wounded as far as known.

General Brooke's advance guard entered Guayama yesterday after a sharp skirmish in which several on both sides were wounded. The general advance was delayed by the grounding of the transport Massachusetts with General Brooke's headquarters aboard. The Massachusetts floated last night and will proceed to Arroyo tomorrow. The cavalry troops will go overland, if peace is declared. The plans of the army are to cross the island and they will probably be unopposed.

The Spanish force at Guayama, numbering 500, were driven back with the loss of one killed and two wounded. The Americans Privates Gordon, Wolcott and Reffe, of the Fourth Ohio, were wounded, none fatally. General Haines occupies the town.

Major Falger, while reconnoitering near Caoma losa night ran into the enemy's pickets and was fired upon. Shots were fired but no one was injured.

Washington, August 6.--The secretary of the navy tonight made known the following telegram from Admiral Sampson:

"Playa, August 6th. "Marine battalion is in excellent health. Sick list numbers 2 1/2 per cent. Fleet surgeons report that they are in better condition for service in this climate than they were when they first arrived in June. Health of the squadron at Guantanamo fairly good. Sick list number about 3 per cent. General tone of health of the ships' companies has fallen considerably since July 1st. This, however, is not due to the prevalence of any disease, but is probably due to the release from the strain and constant effort under which they so long lived; and to this, probably, more than to any other cause, is due their somewhat impaired physique. I do not think it necessary to send the marine detachment to the front in order to relieve their privations in a manner beyond their capacity; those of three ships have not been ashore for seven months, and these months in a debilitating climate."

Secretary Long stated tonight that the navy department is to transport those ships which are required for blockade as soon as the exigencies of the war will permit.

Santiago, August 6.--Noon.--The United States transport Gate City sails this afternoon for Long Island, loaded with equipment, and also transports Miami and Mattawan will leave here tomorrow. Each vessel will sail individually as soon as loaded.

(Correspondence of Associated Press.) Santiago de Cuba, July 27.--The dirty condition of this city, the filth in the streets, the malarious alleys and byways, the lack of sanitary arrangements and drainage of any description are all matters that will require remedying if this

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