

# The Wilmington Messenger.

VOL. XI. NO. 272.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1898.

PRICE 5 CENTS

## SEVERE CRITICISM

### By Major Romeyne of the Preparations of the Santiago Campaign

## NO SYSTEM IN ANY DEPARTMENT

Troops Huddled Together at Tampa—Great Confusion—Commands Separated in the Embarkation—The Lack of Surfboats and Ambulances—Deficiency of Proper Food in the Hospitals—The Cuban Provisional Assembly not in Session—To Order the Holding of a Constitutional Assembly—Cuban Policy Outlined.

Washington, November 2.—The war investigating commission held a session here today for the purpose of hearing the testimony of Major Henry Romeyne, a retired army officer. He said that he had asked at the beginning of the war for a military assignment to go to the front in his capacity as an officer, but it was refused and he then went as a correspondent of a weekly newspaper. His testimony covered the embarkation of the troops at Port Tampa and the campaigning in Cuba. He said that when he went to Port Tampa, the bank of the canal there was covered with troops. He had wanted to go over with the Tenth infantry which was his old regiment, but no one could tell him where the regiment was to be found, nor did any one appear to know what vessel any of the particular troops were to embark. There was great confusion, as a consequence of which a part of a command would go on one vessel and part on another. He had seen no order for the systematic embarkation of the troops and he had heard it said that they were told to go aboard helter-skelter.

When asked to express an opinion as to the preparation for the embarkation the witness stated that to do so would involve criticism of his superiors. The commissioners insisted upon a reply, and Mr. Romeyne replied that he did not think the preparation was such as it should have been. "There was," he said, "a lack of surf boats, and also of order and of preparation for landing. When the landing was undertaken the troops left the ships indiscriminately, parts going at one time and other parts at other times." He told of the effort to tow two lighters over to Cuba, but said that one was lost and that it was the general impression that it was lost on purpose because it retarded the progress of the fleet.

In response to a question from General McCook, Major Romeyne said that while it was difficult to land anything, ambulances and wagons could have been landed as easily as the artillery. He had seen only one ambulance at the front at the battle of El Caney and it was not used for conveying the wounded to the rear. Speaking of other parts of the battle, he said there was general surprise that an inflated balloon had been carried at the head of the attacking column, thus indicating to the Spaniards the exact location of the troops; but he did not know at whose orders this had been done.

He said a conviction of Siboney was without exception, the dirtiest place he had ever seen in his life and that no effort was made to clean it up before the fever broke out. There was a deficiency of proper food at the fever hospitals and the cooking was generally poor. Any other preparation was liable to contract yellow fever. He had been a patient in the hospital and said there had been no neglect of patients by the medical attendants at this hospital or at the hospitals for the wounded. He had known surgeons in the latter hospitals to work sixty hours without cessation.

"Why did they not have more surgeons?" asked Colonel Denby.

The witness said he could not answer.

Major Romeyne said he had come north as a convalescent with many other convalescents on the transport Comcha, and he criticised the provisioning of the vessel in severe terms. Many of the men were compelled to sleep on board bunks without blankets or pillows and with no covering at night except the cotton coverings they wore during the day. "The water was offensive to both sight and smell," he said, "and the food was poor and scanty, none being provided especially for convalescents. The meat was canned and much of the hard tack moulded. He also stated that there was only one physician aboard the vessel and that he was a convalescent. Six men died of the way up and Major Romeyne expressed the opinion in response to a question from Captain Howell, that with proper attention and food the lives of at least some of these men could have been saved. He said he was unable to place the responsibility for the neglect, but that the captain of the vessel had stated that when he made application to go to Jamaica for fresh food and water before starting on the voyage from Santiago he was refused.

General Wilson, ex-Governor Peavor and Captain Howell go to Camp Meade tomorrow for the purpose of inspecting that camp.

CUBAN PROVISIONAL ASSEMBLY. President Maso, of the provisional Cuban government, has cabled from Santa Cruz del Sur to Senor Quesada, secretary of the Cuban legation here, saying: "Assembly has not yet met, owing to the absence of the quorum." This was cabled out by inquiry from Senor Quesada, as to reports coming by way of Santiago, representing the Cuban assembly, in session at Santa Cruz del Sur and engaged in important questions relating to the future of the island, the disarmament of the Cuban army, etc.

It has been stated that the assembly organized by choosing General Garcia as presiding officer, thus indicating the military element under Garcia would dominate the assembly.

There are evidences that President McKinley and his cabinet have assurances that the action of the Cuban provisional government will not be antagonistic to the policy at Washington, but rather in sympathy with the execution of that policy.

Senor Quesada is satisfied that this will be the course of the Cuban assembly when it begins work, and it is probable that he made this view known during a recent interview with Secretary Hay at the state department. In the event of his leaving Washington to attend the assembly at Santa Cruz del Sur, it will be with the special purpose of securing co-operation between the authorities here and there and overcoming all friction. Speaking of the Cuban assembly, Mr. Quesada said:

"It is only the first step toward a regular and constitutional form of government and it will give way later to an assembly truly representative of all the people of Cuba. For the present President Maso has called together this provisional body, which is necessarily crude, because of the unsettled condition of affairs in Cuba. It is, however, not a military assembly, only a body with a membership of forty-eight from the military ranks. The others are from civil life, doctors, lawyers and planters, and represent the best elements in the community. This assembly will not form a constitution, but will provide for a constitutional convention which will take up the important work of framing a constitution and establishing a permanent government for the island."

With this programme in view, it is hardly expected that the question of annexing Cuba to the United will assume large proportions for the present, but will remain in abeyance until the Cuban government is sufficiently well established to permit it to express the wishes of the people of Cuba on the question of annexation.

### DEATH OF JUDGE GREEN

#### He Dies at His Home in Watuga—The Governor to Appoint His Successor for Next Two Years—The Halifax Political Prosecution

(Special to The Messenger.)  
Raleigh, N. C., November 2.—Judge L. L. Green, of the Tenth superior court district, died today at his home in Watuga county.

A rumor was current here that this would necessitate the reprinting of all the judicial tickets. State Chairman Simmons and Holton had a conference and found that the law is plain that where a vacancy occurs within thirty days before an election it can only be filled by the governor's appointment, which holds for two years—until the following election. Governor Russell will accordingly fill the vacancy. Judge Green was a republican and was elected four years ago.

Ex-Congressman Buck Kitchin and several other democrats of Halifax county, who are charged by the negro, Stepoe, with forcible entry of his house, will be here tomorrow afternoon. A telegram received tonight says it is a political prosecution, engineered by the republican state chairman.

### THE NEW HARBOR MONITORS

#### To be Increased in Size to Four Thousand Tons Displacement

Washington, November 2.—The navy department is considering the advisability of modifying the plans for the four new harbor monitors by increasing their size from 2,700 tons to 4,000 tons, enabling them to carry four 12-inch guns in two turrets, instead of only two guns in one turret.

Lewis Nixon, one of the successful bidders for building the monitors, was at the navy department today in consultation with the secretary on the subject, which was, later in the day, considered by the board of bureau chiefs. As the offensive power of the monitors can be doubted at an increase in cost that still places the figure within the appropriation, the change probably will be made.

### Baptist Convention to Meet at Asheville

(Special to The Messenger.)  
Raleigh, N. C., November 2.—Rev. John E. White, secretary of the Baptist state board, says a special invitation was today received from First Baptist church, of Asheville, to have next year's North Carolina Baptist convention held there. He says the convention will, in all probability, be held there. The convention has never met west of the Blue Ridge.

### WHITE MAN'S RALLY

#### A Rousing Time in the Fifth Ward Last Night—Mr. J. L. Croom Comes Out for White Government—Croatian Indians Attend and Make Speeches

A white man's rally was held last night at the stand at Seventh and Castle streets, and the Fifth Ward whooped it up in the enthusiastic manner which has inspired the boys during this remarkable campaign. Rosin barrels at Front and Market streets were lighted early in the night to advertise the meeting, and at several places around the stand there rosin barrels blazed to give the patriots light and glow on the occasion.

A crowd of about 400 or 500 went out to hear the speakers. Among those in attendance were about a dozen Croatian Indians, who were escorted from up town by a delegation of Fifth warders. The Indians are from Skuffletown, Robeson county, and they are here attending the Circuit State court. They went to the meeting wearing white government buttons, and they enthusiastically entered into the spirit of the rally.

At 8:30 o'clock Mr. M. F. Dowling, in a ringing speech, introduced B. G. Empie Esq., who ably presented the issue of white government and created enthusiasm for the cause. The crowd lustily cheered his remarks.

The next speaker was Iredell Meares, Esq., who spoke for more than an hour. He made a magnificent speech and the crowd gave his utterances the heartiest applause. Mr. Meares read the following letter, which was wildly applauded:

"To My Fellow Citizens of Wilmington:—  
I expected tonight to address you upon the political situation in our city, but owing to my confinement to my room from an attack of rheumatism, I am deprived of that pleasure, and write this letter instead. I have been repeatedly urged to allow my name to run on the republican ticket for sheriff, and my friends are insisting on it, even though an amicable arrangement has been made to restore good government to our city. I cannot and will not allow my name to be used, and I am opposed to running any republican ticket in this county."

"I have always been a republican, but under the present condition of affairs, approve of the position of Governor Russell and his friends and desire to see the business men, tax-payers and property owners control the affairs in this county and city."

"J. L. CROOM."  
The crowd then unanimously yelled "Fishbat!" "Fishbat!" and ex-Mayor Fishbat at the time he took the stand amid the cheers of the crowd. Captain James M. McGowan in introduced him as the old democratic war horse, and he made a brief but stirring speech. The cheers and applause that greeted his speech show that he still holds his former popularity in the Fifth ward. He has been doing some good work in the campaign and the boys appreciate it.

C. C. Locklear, a Croatian Indian, was introduced by Mr. Dowling, and he told the crowd that the Croats were with them for white government on the promise that Robeson county would go for white supremacy and said all the Croats asked for was an asylum for their unfortunate people. He was heartily applauded.

The crowd then yelled itself hoarse for the favorite of the Fifth ward, Justice G. W. Bormann, who made a brief but warm speech.

Mr. W. S. Hewlett was called for and amid enthusiasm he made a ringing speech that added to the enthusiasm. There is nothing wrong with the Fifth ward.

### The Barbecue and Rally Today

The county democracy will be here in full force today to attend the white man's rally and barbecue at Hilton park. The country horsemen will be met at Seventeenth and Market streets by the Wilmington Red Shirts, Rough Riders and citizens, who will accompany them on a parade to Hilton park. The parade will move from Seventeenth street down Market to Front, then up Front to democratic headquarters in the old First National Bank building, where the speakers and others of the session will then move down Front street to Castle, out Castle to Seventh up Seventh to Red Cross, on Red Cross to Fourth and up Fourth to the park. The speakers will be Messrs. Geo. Rountree, M. S. Williard, W. H. Neal, Iredell Meares, B. G. Empie and Geo. L. Paschan.

All the white men are invited and the ladies are especially invited.

### Trouble in Columbus

The democrats of Columbus county are in a stir and there is likely to be trouble. Mr. J. A. Brown, of Chadbourn, chairman of the democratic executive committee, was in the city yesterday and he received information that the registration books of Williams township had been stolen or made way with by the fusionists.

Williams township is in the southeastern part of the county, adjoining Horry county, S. C., and it is the democratic stronghold of the county. At last accounts the democrats had a majority of over 300 registered in the township, and it is said the fusionists had offered \$500 to get the vote of that township out of the way. The registrars are under suspicion and if the books are not forthcoming they will have a mountain of trouble on hand. The democrats threaten to swing them up if there has been any dirty work by them. There are a lot of mad democrats in Columbus, and they will set the words on fire if those books are not trotted out.

### Wouldn't Let Dancy Speak

John C. Dancy, the negro collector of the port of Wilmington, is campaigning in several of the eastern counties of the state. Yesterday he had an appointment to speak at Wilson, but the white government cohorts met him and wouldn't allow him to speak. He came down to Goldsboro and went down the Atlantic and North Carolina railroad towards Kingston and Newbern.

### FUSION BRAGGERS

#### Trying to Keep up their Spirits by Loud Boasting—Fusionists Watching their Election Tickets—A Politician in Trouble—Populists Being Driven by the Fusion Machine to Vote for Fowler

Messenger Bulletin  
Raleigh, N. C., November 2.

The republicans issued a campaign circular today in which they set forth as facts the statements of the negro Stepoe of Halifax county, that Congressman "Buck" Kitchin and others assaulted him and broke into his house in Halifax county.

The next contest will be in Edgecombe county, where the situation is a duplicate of what it was in Wilmington and New Hanover. The populists say they "failed to adjust" their compromise ticket.

In Granville county the fusionists did not fuse. There are three tickets in that county. Populists speak of it as "in a bad fix." The populists have no organization in Stanly. They claim that Richmond county will go for fusion.

Republican Chairman Holton says he does not believe the statements that there will be shooting, particularly in Richmond county. He says he could jump in there and run out the whole crowd. He says he wrote today a circular asking that all disorder in the state be reported to him so he can have the grand juries to investigate.

The other day the republican estimate of thirty-eight senators and seventy-seven members of the house as the fusion strength was given, as from Holton. Populist Secretary Ayer says today that the democrats cannot get over eleven senators, and fifty-five members of the house.

December 28th the association of county supervisors and that of superintendent of academies meet here.

County Supervisor E. M. Matlock, of Vance, is in trouble. He is to be tried. He is in politics too and the state superintendent does not say good things about him. He is a fusionist.

The news as to the reorganization of the state guard into three regiments, is not, for some odd reason, to be given out until the day after the election. It was promised by November 1st, and has nothing on earth to do with the election.

The republicans and populists are watching their election tickets. Holton and Ayer are sending them out. The populist ticket has the arms of the state. The republican ticket has a small picture of McKinley, ground which are grouped flags, guns, canons, etc., in colors. It is quite a gaudy ticket.

It is said that populists in the Third district are being "driven" to vote for Fowler for congress. A populist says so. When asked who was giving them the said "Senator Butler and the machine."

Republicans are not now willing to bet that they will carry the lower house. They are very bitter indeed. The comment is made that the negroes will vote largely in towns, but lightly in the country districts.

Populist fusion comment on Halifax county is that "it is in a worse fix than any county in the state." It is funny to hear populists here brag. One of them says that not a populist can be found in Sampson county who will vote the democratic ticket. They also say that from Raleigh westward the biggest majority against the democratic ticket will be given.

### WILL HAVE ORDER

#### Resolutions Adopted at a Meeting of the Citizens of Wilmington (Special to The Messenger.)

Wilmington, N. C., November 2.—The following action has been taken by our citizens regarding the negro invasion, wired you last night.

At a meeting of the white people of Wilmington, N. C., held at Odd Fellows hall on the evening of November 1st the following resolutions were adopted.

Whereas, On the night of the 21st of October an armed band of negroes invaded this town, and marched through the streets of Wilmington, discharging their guns in violation of peace and order, and

Whereas, The white people of the town desire to maintain quiet and peace.

We therefore demand that the mayor of the said town organize a sufficient force to maintain law and order and we require him to call on all good citizens to aid him in maintaining good order.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent the mayor of the town.

### A Defaulter for Many Years

Hanover, Penn., November 2.—A long hidden deficiency, reaching about \$75,000, has been discovered in the accounts of the late John H. Alleman, cashier of the First National bank of this place, who died about three weeks ago. The books have been in the hands of an expert accountant since Alleman's death, and the shortage was thus revealed. Mr. Alleman had been cashier of the bank for twenty-eight years and at no time was he ever suspected of doing wrong. His defalcations were cleverly covered up by means of "kiting" or the use of drafts on different out of town banks and thus deceived even the bank examiners. Mr. Alleman was under bonds of \$30,000 and the bank will therefore suffer little and it still has a surplus of \$44,000 over all liabilities.

## READY FOR ACTION

### Warlike Measures on Part of British Warships in Chinese Waters.

## TO CLOSE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

### Spain's Representatives Expected to Withdraw from the Joint Commission—Comments of German Press on Attitude of Our Government

### More Talk of Interference by European Powers—No Change in the Fashoda Situation—Belief that Egyptian Question will Bring on a General European War

Wei Hai, November 2.—All the British warships here, the first class battleship Centurion; the first class cruiser Narcissus, the second class cruiser Hermione, the torpedo boat destroyer Whiting, the torpedo boat destroyer Handy and the first class gunboat, Peacock, have cleared for action and are ready for sea at an hour's notice.

The first class battleship Vigorous and the first class cruiser Unguent, at Che Foo, are coaling to their full capacity.

The greatest secrecy is maintained as to the meaning of these warlike preparations, but there is no doubt important instructions are expected at any moment.

A large Russian fleet is assembled at Port Arthur.

London, November 2.—The dispatch from Wei Hai Wei announcing the war preparations of the British naval authorities there, is regarded here as being of grave importance, coupled with the French-Anglo war preparations. It is surmised that Russia, profiting by the present relations between Great Britain and France, has decided to push forward her aims in the far east by forcibly seizing the valuable treaty port of Newchwang, which Great Britain cannot permit, it is said.

### NO CHANGE IN FASHODA SITUATION.

A semi official note issued this evening relative to the reports of a settlement of the Fashoda question says:

"The matter is substantially in the same position as it was when the blue-book and yellow book were published. It is not anticipated that France will take further action until Major Marchand's arrival at Cairo on Thursday, when explanation will be forthcoming as to his reason for leaving Fashoda."

A Frenchman has been arrested at Dover for attempting to enter the big gun turret on the admiralty pier there.

### IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES.

Washington, November 2.—The critical situation of affairs between France and Great Britain is exciting lively interest among members of the diplomatic corps here, and on some of the phases of the controversy appears to be more exact than coming from Paris and London. The dispatches today attached much significance to the absence of Baron Courcel, the French ambassador, from London and it was stated that France would show her animosity by not continuing an ambassador at London.

The journal official received at the French embassy however, says that the appointment of M. Paul Cambon as ambassador for London to succeed Baron Courcel, was officially gazetted on September 21st. M. Cambon, is a brother of Mr. Jules Cambon, the French ambassador here, who was conspicuous in the peace negotiations between this government and Spain. He has been ambassador at Constantinople and is now on his way from that point to London.

At the leading embassies here there is little idea that the Fashoda affair will lead to war, although there is a very general opinion that the Egyptian question in general may lead to a conflict in which other European countries than France and Great Britain may take part.

### ENGLAND AND THE UNITED STATES.

London, November 2.—Right Hon. James Bryce, former under secretary of state for foreign affairs, subsequently president of the board of trade and now member of parliament in the liberal interest for Aberdeen, speaking there this evening, endorsed Lord Salisbury's stand in the Fashoda controversy, declaring that the military control of all the navigable waters in the Bahr el Ghazal basin, as well as the Nile, must be secured to Egypt.

Referring to increasing cordiality between the United States and Great Britain Mr. Bryce said: "When last in the United States I was struck with the change in public sentiment. The spontaneous outburst of feeling in Great Britain when the European powers wished to intervene against the United States during the recent war with Spain made the Americans understand how close we felt the tie between them and ourselves. They have shown that they appreciate and reciprocate our sentiment. I would never advocate a formal alliance. At all events, the obstacles at present are

severe, but all the conditions exist for a solid and durable friendship between America and Great Britain. They have no adverse interests anywhere in the world and they have common aims in sundry regions. Everywhere such can render a great service to the other and they can understand one another better than either can understand any foreign country. Nature and history meant them to be friends and the closer and deeper that friendship is the better it will be for the greatness and welfare of both.

### TO BREAK OF PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

London, November 3.—The Paris correspondent of The Morning Post says: "It is expected that a rupture of the peace negotiations between the United States and Spain will be officially announced on Friday. The feeling here is that the attitude of the Spaniards is irrational in view of the financial proposals of the United States and that they may ultimately regret having failed to agree quickly with the adversary."

The Vienna correspondent of The Times says: "The Spanish commissioners cannot be surprised; neither the Spanish government by America's decision to take the Philippines. Possibly the Spanish people were not prepared for it and the commissioners were pretending surprise so that the government may be better able to face public opinion. Certainly everybody outside of Spain must have understood that the archipelago was lost to Spain."

### TALK OF EUROPEAN INTERFERENCE.

The Berlin correspondent of the Standard says: "Russia and another power are credited with the intention of intimating to Washington that the annexation of the Philippines must be preceded by a common agreement on future action in certain circumstances." The German papers express their feeling very frankly. The Hamburg-Wei Hai Wei 2

isich correspondent says: "The United States are conducting the peace negotiations as they conducted the war. The mask of humanity is being gradually dropped, revealing the broad hand of strength. When the protocol was signed not a foot of Philippine soil was in American hands. President McKinley demands the complete surrender only because victory in the forthcoming elections depends upon it. The American demand, however, is a blow to Spain than to the European powers which seem desirous of selecting naval stations on the Philippines."

The Birsens Courier admits that the powers have no cause for interfering, but urges them to watch American expansion with jealous eyes.

The National Zeitung says: "If Spain cannot obtain compensation sufficient to cover the Philippines and Cuba debts, she would be better off without the islands. Looking at the commercial and strategical value of the Philippines, we would not be surprised at resistance on the part of some of the powers. Moreover, it is evident that the inhabitants do not calmly acquiesce in American annexation."

The Frankfurter Zeitung thinks that after the elections the American commissioners are likely to make some concessions since the chief question is how to conquer the Philippines from the Spaniards than how to overcome Spanish resistance.

The Vienna correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says: "Austrian cabinet members an English protectorate of the Philippine the only proper solution of the question."

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