

The North Carolinian

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SCHLEY ATTACKS SPANISH FLEET

Havana Advices, via Cape Hatien, State that the American Fleet at 2 o'clock Yesterday Began to Bombard Moro Castle at the Entrance of Santiago de Cuba Harbor.

FORCED THE FORTS AND ENGAGED THE SHIPS

At 3:45 the Cannonading Became Less Heavy Against the Fortifications but was More Accentuated at the Locality Where the Fleets were Engaged--At 5:15 Advices Came that the American Fleet had Forced the Entrance to the Harbor and had Engaged the Spanish Fleet.

Copyright 1898 by Associated Press. Cape Haytien, Hayti, May 31.—5:15 p. m.—Advices just received from Havana say that since 2 o'clock this afternoon the American fleet at Santiago de Cuba has been cannonading the batteries of Moro Castle, La Zecapa and Punta Garcia. At the same time, it is added, the American ships have been engaged with the Spanish warships. The firing is extremely heavy. At 3:45 p. m. the cannonading became less heavy against the fortifications, but was more accentuated in the locality where the fleets were engaged.

Moro Castle is at the entrance of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba. La Zecapa, also shown on the maps as La Zecapa Castle, is a short distance inside the harbor entrance, and Punta Garcia is situated on a point well inside the harbor of Santiago de Cuba, showing that the American fleet has entered the harbor according to the Havana advices, via Cape Haytien, and has engaged the Spanish fleet in those waters.

FLEETS AND FORTS ENGAGED.

Copyright 1898 by Associated Press. Cape Haytien, Hayti, May 31.—5:15 p. m.—The Havana advices indicate that the American fleet has forced the entrance of the harbor of Santiago de Cuba and has engaged the Spanish fleet.

HEAVY CANNONADING.

Copyright 1898 by Associated Press. Cape Haytien, Hayti, May 31.—5:15 p. m.—Advices from Havana say a heavy engagement is taking place at Santiago de Cuba.

REPORT DISCREDITED.

Washington, D. C., May 31.—No advices of an engagement at Santiago de Cuba have reached the navy department, and officials discredit the report.

SANTIAGO BOMBARDED.

Copyright 1898 by Associated Press. Port Au Prince, Hayti, May 31.—About 2 o'clock this afternoon an American squadron of fourteen warships, of which the cruiser New York displayed the flag of Rear Admiral Sampson, and a number of torpedo boats, began a bombardment with heavy guns against the forts and the harbor of Santiago de Cuba.

The American fire was directed principally against the forts and the harbor. The forts of Moro Castle, La Zecapa and Punta Garcia suffered especially. The cannonading was very persistent and cannot have failed to be very destructive. It lasted until 3:45 p. m.

The town, which is situated near the harbor end of the harbor, escaped damage. At 3:45 p. m. the cannonade diminished.

At 3 o'clock cannon discharges were heard at a distance (presumably at sea), continuing for some time, when the firing ceased, completely. The Spanish authorities maintain strict silence as to number of victims, who were apparently numerous.

According to advices from a Spanish source, fourteen American warships and two torpedo boats were engaged in the combat at Santiago.

A very careful fire was directed against the batteries of Moro Castle until 3:45 p. m., when discharges of cannon began to be heard at sea, off the coast.

These discharges continued until 4 o'clock and then entirely ceased. From the Spanish account, it is im-

possible to judge as to the merits of the encounter.

SHIPS SIGHTED OFF HAYTI.

The Fleet Seemed to Be Making Northward With All Speed.

Copyright 1898 by Associated Press. Cape Haytien, Hayti, May 31.—11:20 a. m.—The Haytien dispatch gunboat, La Mort, which arrived here from Port au Prince at 8 o'clock this morning, having the minister of public works on board, seems to have sighted five American warships, while passing the Mole St. Nicholas yesterday afternoon. The correspondent here of the Associated Press has just interviewed the officers of the Capois la Mort, and learns that at about 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the gunboat was about abreast of the Mole columns of black smoke were espied on the horizon east by north from her bridges. The ships were about thirteen miles distant and there hulls could not be fairly seen, but all appearances indicate that several vessels were of great tonnage. The fleet seemed to be making northward with all speed, past the eastern end of Cuba, and while the officers of the Capois la Mort were observing the vessels they were gradually lost to view behind the protruding outlines of Cape Mayst. It is hardly to be doubted that the ships sighted were American war vessels.

NEW YORKERS SICK AT TAMPA.

Several Members of the Seventy-first Regiment Are Seriously Ill.

Tampa, Fla., May 31.—There is considerable sickness among the soldiers of the seventy-first volunteers, and although only one fatality has occurred so far, several members of the regiment are seriously ill. Seventeen of them are now under the care of the regimental physician. Most of the sickness is due to the change of weather, although long hours of drilling in the intense heat to which the northerners are unaccustomed, have caused prostrations.

GEN. BUTLER'S COMMAND.

Will Have Charge of First Division of Second Army Corps.

Washington, May 31.—Major General Butler, United States volunteers, will be assigned to the command of the First Division of the Second Army Corps, now in camp near Falls Church, Va. He is at his home in South Carolina, and is expected to-morrow or next day to qualify and receive his orders.

ORDERED TO LEAVE MANILA.

Owners of British Ship Received Cable Message—Conjectured That Dewey Contemplates Some Action.

London, May 31.—The owners of the British ship Genista, which has been loading at Manila harbor, received a cable dispatch dated May 24th, saying that Rear Admiral Dewey has ordered the vessels to leave the port. It is conjectured that the American commander contemplated some action.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS.

Washington, May 31.—The president to-day sent these nominations to the Senate:

Oscar Strauss, of New York, to be Minister to Turkey; Sixth regiment United States volunteer infantry, to be Lieut. Colonel—First Lieut. Andrew S. Lowan, 1st United States infantry; to be commissary of subsistence, with rank of major—Robert Lee Longstreet, of Georgia.

WAR BALLOON READY.

Washington, May 31.—General Greely, chief signal officer, has been informed of the arrival at Tampa of a balloon designed for use in the present war.

WITH THE FIGHTERS TROOPS LAND IN CUBA

Real Scene of Action Changes from Washington. The Loret Expedition Entirely Successful.

CONFIDENCE IN LEADERS AN INDEPENDENT MOVE

NAVY AND ARMY WILL NOT BE FETTERED BY DEPARTMENT. COMPOSED OF CUBANS AND AMERICANS.

WILL GIVE ONLY GENERAL DIRECTIONS NO TROUBLE IN EFFECTING A LANDING

The Department Realizes that Battles Cannot be Fought in Advance on Paper—Help for the Insurgents and Reconcentrados. The Expedition Consisted of 300 Cubans and 100 Americans—Welcomed by Insurgents—Brass Band Played Patriotic Airs—Elation Over Success of Expedition.

Washington, May 31.—When the cabinet meeting adjourned to-day it was announced that the matters under discussion were not of vital importance, nor was there anything that could be given to the public.

It is intimated from high sources that the land expedition now embarking at Key West may be divided, and one division sent to co-operate with Sampson against Porto Rico.

It is believed that the government has a sufficient number of regulars and seasoned volunteers to carry out both of these plans to a successful issue. Transports in sufficient numbers and capacity, already have been secured, and it is the opinion of high officials that one or both of these plans are now being carried into execution.

General Miles, who left here last night to take command of the military forces, is known to have the entire confidence of the president, who in the course of today's cabinet meeting, said that he had the utmost confidence in General Miles' ability as a soldier, and fully expected that he would prove entirely worthy of his trust. Members of the administration are agreed that the war from this time will be prosecuted at all points with the utmost vigor.

The president has begun to prepare to help the families of the insurgents, and the reconcentrados, who still drag out a miserable existence. The commissary general of the army has prepared an estimate of \$5,000,000 for the purchase of sufficient supplies to feed 150,000 reconcentrados for six months.

For the time being it is felt that the real field of action is removed from Washington and is centered with the troops, now advancing under orders from here, and with our ships. The time of preparation has gone by, and it remains only for preparations to be carried into actual effect. There will continue to be much routine detail in the maintenance of the large military and naval force, but this is now in well established channels. The more vital feature of the campaign itself has been fully matured.

To a certain extent the military and naval operations will be directed from Washington, and yet with General Miles in the south, and Admiral Sampson and Commodore Schley in Cuban waters, they will have most to do with the time and circumstances of attacks. The commander, General Miles and naval commanders, have been given wide latitude, as the authorities here fully appreciate that battles cannot be fought in advance on paper.

The consular reports to-day contain some additional declarations of neutrality, this time from Brazil, Japan, British Guinea, St. Lucia, and Gibraltar.

It is noticeable that both Brazil and Japan go out of the way of the usual formal preamble to express regret at the outbreak of hostilities between the United States and Spain. Bermuda modifies her original proclamation of April 23rd, so as to make the rule relative to supplying provisions, subsistence and coal to belligerent ships conform closely to the belligerent rules on that subject.

The Japanese proclamation is rather remarkable from the great exactness with which it prescribes the rules that are to govern Japanese subjects in their dealing with the belligerents and the treatment that will be accorded belligerent ships. The proclamation evidently was prepared with great care, and may serve as a model for the guidance of diplomats of all nations.

The board of naval bureau chiefs is trying to hasten the work of construction of the battleships authorized by the present naval appropriation bill. The Illinois type, upon which the new vessels are to be constructed, will occupy three years in construction. After a conference to-day the bureau chiefs presumably with knowledge of the constructive ability of the American shipyards capable of undertaking this work, resolved to reduce the time allowed for building the new ships to a maximum of three months. The navy department bought another yacht to-day, the Inquirer, for use in the auxiliary fleet, by the terms the mosquito fleet will be designated in accordance with the terms of the recently enacted act on the subject.

FOR HARBOR DEFENSE.

Recommendation Sent to the House, \$150,000 for Defense of Manila Harbor.

Washington, D. C., May 31.—The secretary of war sent to the house today a recommendation for funds for harbor defense and other work in carrying on the war.

Among other items was a significant brief one recommending \$150,000 for torpedo defense of Manila harbor, Philippine Islands, to be available until expended.

TROOPS WANT TO GO TO CUBA

DESCRIPTION OF A FLORIDA THUNDER STORM—ITS WETTING QUALITIES WONDERFUL.

The Canteen is in Full Operation—Question of Seniority Among Officers—The Date of Commission Determines Seniority—Colored Troops Will be Given a Chance.

(Special War Correspondent.)

Jacksonville, Fla., May 31.—The North Carolina troops are now armed with guns and ammunition. When they get uniforms and other equipment, which is daily expected, they will be ready to go to Cuba and put up a sharp fight. Nine hundred guns and one hundred thousand rounds of ball cartridges arrived to-day. The guns were immediately issued to the men. They are Springfield rifles, 45 calibre, same as those used by the State guards, but they have seen less service, and are in good condition. As rapidly as the exchange can be made, all those now in hand will be turned back to the State for use by the home companies. Had North Carolina troops received arms and equipments sooner, they would now be under orders to be ready to start at an hour's notice. Such orders were received this afternoon by the Second Illinois and First Wisconsin regiments in camp here. These regiments were selected because they are equipped.

General Lee arrived at 6:45 o'clock yesterday afternoon. He was met at the depot by a committee of prominent citizens. Thousands walked the line of march from the depot to the Windsor hotel, where he is stopping.

Last night while a detail from the Queen City guards was guarding the water works, Private Phillips saw a man climb to the top of the fence, and as he was in the act of throwing something into the reservoir, Phillips commanded him to halt. He jumped down and ran, Phillips firing on him. This morning a white man answering the description given by Phillips, was arrested, and is in jail awaiting developments. It is the man whom the police have been shadowing for some time. It is believed he was trying to poison the water.

"When are we going to Cuba?" is the inquiry daily made in camp here. For it is one that nobody can answer. But on one point everybody seems agreed, and that is that, being under General Lee, we will go with the first troops that are sent. The prospect encourages the men in their drilling, and makes lighter the routine of camp life.

It is certain that the troops will not be sent away until they are armed and equipped. This cannot be done under two weeks. Many are of the opinion that they will be kept here all summer. Others think that it all depends upon the result of the naval battle between Schley and Cervera.

A DON QUIXOTE CAMPAIGN.

The report that the Spanish fleet is at Santiago is accepted here with a great deal of salt. To begin with, it is not believed that Cervera would have been so foolish as to have taken his ships into such a trap, and in the next place, it is thought that if Commodore Schley were sure of his game he would proceed to bag it, instead of hovering around the entrance to the port. Certainly he would give the government advantage of any definite information he may have.

The "naval war board" or board of strategy, as it is called, has become a standing joke here, both in camp and in the city. Army officers are especially fond of criticizing it. "It would be ridiculous, were it not so serious—these men sitting in Washington and trying to conduct a campaign in Cuba," said a prominent officer yesterday. "There was never anything truer than the charge that Spain gave us Don Quixote in fiction, and we have enacted it into a reality. So far the campaign may be truthfully styled a Don Quixote campaign."

"In saying this though," continued the officer, "I do not mean to say that the board is not composed of men of proved ability, but it is just simply impossible for them to sit at one end of a cable and direct a campaign at the other, no matter what sources of information they may have."

At the head of this board, it will be remembered, is Admiral Seward, who was Admiral Sampson's predecessor as commander of the North Atlantic squadron, and relieved a few weeks ago on account of ill health; Capt. Alfred T. Mahan, acknowledged by all the world as the highest authority upon naval topics; Capt. Arant S. Crowninshield, chief of the bureau of navigation, and the Secretary of the Navy.

LARGE CAMP AT MIAMI.

General Lawton reached Miami Sunday, and early yesterday the preparation of a large encampment ground for volunteer troops belonging to the Seventh Army Corps (Gen. Lee's) began. It is General Lee's desire to have his forces all in line along the coast, so that he may move them, on short notice, to Cuba. To this end it is thought camps will also be established at St. Augustine and Palm Beach, and perhaps at other points along the coast. The largest camps, however, will be those here and at Miami.

GLAD TO GET HOME PAPERS.

All North Carolina papers are eagerly read in camp, and passed from tent to tent until they are worn out. Of course the News and Observer is the favorite, and the enterprising news dealers have been quick to find it out. They have on sale big stacks of them daily, and usually dispose of the entire stock.

Many other State papers though, are sent here for distribution among the boys. These thoughtful editors may be assured that their kindness is most highly appreciated, and the soldiers request me, through the News and Observer, to thank them.

A NORTH CAROLINIAN PROMOTED.

Dr. McKnight, hospital steward for the North Carolina regiment, has been detailed as steward for the Division hospital. Though this carries with it no increase in pay, it is a position of more importance and dignity. Dr. Hunter, assistant steward for the regiment, succeeds Dr. McKnight as steward. Parks King, of the Concord company, becomes assistant steward. He has heretofore been an orderly in the hospital.

THEY ARE AS GOOD AS THE BEST.

The type Sunday make me put Captain Hill down as captain of "the colored company," instead of the Concord company, as it should have been. The members of that company, however, knowing that it is one of the best in every respect in the whole camp, and headed by one of the most efficient young officers, were good natured enough to laugh at the mistake.

VACCINATING THE SOLDIERS.

Adjutant Alexander is a very busy man these days making up his monthly reports, the most important of which is the pay roll. Requisition has been made for twenty-four bugles, the full number allowed. As soon as they arrive the drum corps will be done away with, and a bugle corps will be organized in its stead.

The vaccination of the North Carolina troops is going forward rapidly.

(Continued on Second Page.)