

Miles Says that Order Was Secret

Alger Sent it to Shafter Through Corbin.

NOT TO SUPERSEDE HIM

THE ASSURANCE GIVEN SHAFTER WITH REGARD TO MILES.

GENERAL ALGER'S DOUBLE DEALING

Telegrams Between Miles and the War Department Show Conclusively Shafter was his Subordinate--He was More Than Once Utterly Ignored.

Kansas City, Mo., Aug. 29.—The Star this afternoon prints a three column exclusive dispatch from Mr. J. D. Whelpley, its special correspondent who has just returned from Porto Rico, bearing upon the Miles-Alger controversy. Mr. Whelpley takes occasion to deny the statement that his recently published interview in Porto Rico with General Miles, wherein the latter was quoted as casting reflections upon the War Department was not genuine and in support of the statements already published in the Star printed between the War Department and General Miles and Shafter on the points at issue.

"Doubt is expressed by some," says Mr. Whelpley, "as to whether General Miles ever said these things I credit him with. Others suggest he may have said them in confidence which was betrayed. I feel confident," continues the correspondent, "General Miles will stand by the interview referred to."

"My talk with him was not confidential. I went to him as a newspaper reporter, for the avowed purpose of securing an interview. There was no reservation from publication in the conversation. This is proved by his refusal to answer some questions which he would have answered had this not been so."

"In this instance, however, no question of veracity need arise. General Miles himself, even if he so desired, could not conceal the proof of all he said. It is written in the records of the War Department and it only needs a clearing away of inconsequent matter to tell the story clearly and in full."

The Star's article says:

"That General Miles was in command of the entire army when in Washington is of course evident. That he did not resign this supreme command when he went to Tampa and that it was he who was treating with the Cubans for cooperation in Cuba is shown by the numerous telegrams exchanged with General Garcia. The War Department recognized Miles as chief when he was in Tampa, for June 12th a telegram was sent to him from Washington which begins: 'Following extract of telegram from Admiral Sampson to Secretary of Navy is repeated for your information, etc.'

"When General Shafter went to Cuba and General Miles returned to Washington, the latter did not resign his control of the situation but, on the contrary, kept in as close touch as possible by wire with the movements of Shafter's command."

"On the fourth of July General Shafter sent the following dispatches to Washington, addressed to the Adjutant General:

"Headquarters Fifth Army Corps, in Camp near Santiago de Cuba, July 4th.—There seems to be no reasonable doubt that General Pando succeeded in entering Santiago last night with his force, said to be about 5,000 men."

"This puts a different aspect upon affairs and while we can probably maintain ourselves, it would be at the cost of very considerable fighting and loss."

"General Lawton reports that General Garcia, who was to block the entrance of Pando, informed him at 10 o'clock last night that Pando had passed in on the Cuban road. Lawton says he cannot compel General Garcia to obey my instructions to place himself in any position where he will have to fight and that if we intend to reduce Santiago we will have to depend alone upon our own troops, and that we will require twice the number we now have."

"I sent a message to Admiral Sampson, asking if he proposed entering the harbor so as to give us his assistance. Commodore Watson replies that he does not know Admiral Sampson's intentions since the destruction of the Spanish squadron, but does not himself think the fleet should try to go into the harbor of Santiago. This, under the circumstances, is not very encouraging."

"Have been expecting a division from Tampa and Duffield's brigade from Camp Alger, but only a small number of recruits has appeared so far. If we have to try and reduce the town, now that the fleet is destroyed, there must be no delay in getting a large body of troops here."

"The town is in a terrible condition as to food, and people are starving, but the troops can fight and have a large quantity of rice. There will be nothing done here until noon of the fifth."

"I am sorry to say I am no better. Lieutenant Miles had interview with me this morning and his report will be telegraphed immediately. I do not send this in cipher, as time is precious."

"SHAFTER."

"Major General."

"It was this situation which determined General Miles to go to Cuba. The day he sailed with reinforcements, July 7th, he sent the following dispatch from Washington:

"General Shafter, Santiago:

"Take every precaution against surprise and be on the lookout that the enemy does not turn your right flank and come in on the line of your communications. Reinforcements are being sent forward as rapidly as possible, but you will have to be the judge of the position you are to hold until reinforcements can reach you."

"MILES."

"Major General Commanding."

"General Miles sailed for Cuba, on

July 11th, at noon he reported his safe arrival to the War Department and at once assumed charge, reporting to the Secretary of War. All of the subsequent business of the surrender was entirely in his hands as shown by the fact that the War Department communicated with him direct, not even mentioning General Shafter's name in the numerous dispatches. The following dispatch is an example:

"Washington, D. C., July 13, 1898.

"Major General Miles:

"You may accept surrender by granting parole to officers and men, the officers retaining their side arms. The officers and men after parole will be permitted to return to Spain, the United States assisting. If not accepted, then assault, unless in your judgment an assault would fail. Consult with Sampson and pursue such course as to the assault as you jointly agree upon. Matters should be settled promptly."

"R. A. ALGER,"

"Secretary of War."

"This dispatch recognized Miles as Commander and gave him authority to act. Shafter was entirely ignored. In the face of this situation, Secretary Alger, through General Corbin, sent a dispatch to General Miles did not come to Cuba to supersede Shafter in any way. This dispatch General Miles refers to as 'secret,' for he says he did not know it had been sent, not being notified from Washington and General Shafter saying nothing about it. After the surrender General Miles still retained control. He authorized Shafter to appoint peace commissioners, and, judging from Shafter's report that all was over, he instructed him as to the disposition of the troops."

"July 15th General Shafter wired General Miles that the surrender was not as complete as was thought and said:

"Please do not go away with the reinforcements as I may yet need them."

"Miles promptly replied by wire from Baiquiri that the surrender is complete, and the Spaniards 'must surrender.'"

"On July 16th Shafter wired Miles that the surrender was finally complete and General Miles replied through Adjutant General Gilmore as follows:

"The commanding general is very much gratified to hear that the surrender is complete. He directs that you telegraph anything of importance and the condition of your command daily."

"General Miles then reported the condition of affairs to the Secretary of War with whom he had been in conference. In one of his telegrams to Miles, Secretary Alger says:

"As soon as Santiago falls the troops must all be put in camp as comfortable as they can be made and remain, I suppose, until the fever has had its run."

"Miles did not agree with Secretary Alger, for July 21st, in a letter the General commanding urged the return of the army to the United States as soon as possible. July 17th, after the surrender was complete, General Shafter wired as follows to General Miles:

"Siboney, July 17th 1898—8:48 p. m.

"Received July 18th, 1898, General Miles on board Yale:

"Letters and orders in reference to movement of camp received and will be carried out. None is more anxious to get away from here than myself. It seems from your orders given me that you regard my forces as part of your command. Nothing will give me greater pleasure than serving you, General and I shall comply with all your requests and directions, but I was told by the Secretary that you were not to supersede me in command here. I will furnish the information called for as to condition of command to Gilmore, Adjutant General, A. H. Q."

"SHAFTER,"

"Major General."

General Miles very promptly replied as follows:

"Playa del Este, July 18, 1898—(Guantanamo)—11:30 a. m.

"General Shafter:

"Telegram received; have no desire and have carefully avoided any appearance of superseding you. Your command is a part of the United States army, which I have the honor to command, having been duly assigned thereto and directed by the President to go wherever I thought my presence required and give such general directions as I thought best concerning military matters, and especially directed to go to Santiago for a specific purpose. You will also notice that the orders of the Secretary of War of July 13th, left the matter to my discretion. I should regret that any event should cause either myself or any part of your command to cease to be a part of mine."

"Very truly yours,"

"NELSON A. MILES,"

"Major General Commanding U. S. Army."

"General Miles then gave General Shafter final instructions and left hurriedly for Porto Rico. In view of the situation as revealed by the above telegrams the following statement contained in the New York Herald of recent date, is quoted:

"If my cablegram to Major General Shafter, informing him that Major General Miles was not sent to supersede him in supreme command in the field at Santiago de Cuba, prevented the storming of the city on the day of its surrender, and this resulted in the saving of lives which otherwise would have been lost in the attack, then I am repaid for sending it a thousand fold."

"My cablegram to General Shafter was simply due to my desire to assure him that I intended to be absolutely fair. Before his departure from Washington, General Miles and I had talked the matter over and he started for Cuba, knowing that he was not in any way to interfere with the operations which were under the control of General Shafter. That there could be no doubt whatever I cabled to General Shafter informing him that General Miles had left for Cuba with instructions not to in any manner supersede him as commander of troops in the field at Santiago de Cuba. As I have said, my message prevented a battle, on the morning of the day the city surrendered then I am repaid a thousand-fold."

FOR THE AMERICA'S CUP.

New York, Sept. 3.—The committee representing the Royal Ulster Yacht Club and Sir Thomas Lipton, which arrived in this city yesterday, met the New York Yacht Club committee today. A formal challenge was issued later in the day, in the name of the Ulster Club and Sir Thomas Lipton, to a series of matches with the yacht Shamrock against any one yacht or vessel constructed in the United States of America for the America's cup subject to the deed of gift and conditions agreed upon.

The Millennial Dawn is Near.

If Europe Accepts the Czar's Proposal to Disarm.

A CONFERENCE DESIRED

NATIONS INVITED TO JOIN IN MOVEMENT FOR UNIVERSAL PEACE.

IS THIS REALLY A UTOPIAN DREAM?

All People and Societies Connected with Peace and Arbitration Movements are Jubilant

--Imperishable Monument to the Fame of Emperor Nicholas.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 28.—By order of Czar Nicholas, Count Muraviev, the Russian foreign minister, has handed to each of the foreign representatives in St. Petersburg a note stating that the maintenance of peace and the reduction of the excessive armaments now crushing all European nations form the ideal for which all governments ought to strive.

The Czar considers the present moment favorable for starting a movement looking to this end and invites the powers to take part in an international conference as a means of ensuring real and lasting peace and ending the increase of armaments.

The text of Count Muraviev's note is as follows: "The maintenance of general peace and the possible reduction of the excessive armaments which weigh upon all nations present themselves in existing conditions to the whole world as an ideal toward which the endeavors of all governments should be directed. The humanitarian and magnanimous ideas of His Majesty, the Emperor, my august master, have been won over to this view in the conviction that this lofty aim is in conformity with the most essential interests and legitimate views of all the powers; and the imperial government thinks the present moment would be very favorable to seeking the means."

"A REAL, DURABLE PEACE."

"International discussion is the most effectual means of ensuring all people's benefit—a real durable peace, above all, putting an end to the progressive development of the present armaments."

"In the course of the last twenty years the longing for general appeasement has grown especially pronounced in the consciences of civilized nations; and the preservation of peace has been put forward as an object of international policy. It is in its name that great states have concluded among themselves powerful alliances; it is the better to guarantee peace that they have developed in proportions hitherto unprecedented their military forces and still continue to increase them without shrinking from any sacrifice. Nevertheless, all these efforts have not yet been able to bring about the beneficent result desired—pacification."

BIG ARMIES DWARF PROSPERITY

"The financial charges following the upward march strike at the very root of public prosperity. The intellectual and physical strength of the nation's labor and capital is mostly diverted from natural application and is unproductively consumed. Hundreds of millions are devoted to acquiring terrible engines of destruction, which, though to-day regarded as the last work of science, are destined to-morrow to lose all their value in consequence of some fresh discovery in the same field. National culture, economic progress and the production of wealth are either paralyzed or checked in their development. Moreover, in proportion as the armaments of the nation increase they less and less fulfill the object which the government have set before themselves."

"The economic crisis, due in great part to the system of armaments and the continual danger which lies in this massing of war material, is transforming the armed peace of our days into a crushing burden which the people's have more and more difficulty in bearing."

START FOR THE NEXT CENTURY.

"It appears evident that if this state of things were to be prolonged it would inevitably lead to the very cataclysm it is desired to avert and to horrors which make every thinking being shudder in advance. To put an end to these incessant armaments and to seek the means of warding off the calamities which are threatening the whole world—such is the supreme duty to-day imposed upon all States."

"Filled with this idea, His Majesty has been pleased to command me to propose to all the governments whose representatives are credited to the imperial court, the assembling of a conference which shall occupy itself with this grave problem."

"This conference will be by the help of God a happy presage for the century which is about to open. It would converge into one powerful focus the efforts of all States sincerely seeking to make the great conception of universal peace triumph over the elements of trouble and discord, and would, at the same time, cement their agreement by a corporate consecration of the principles of equity and right whereon rest the security of States and the welfare of peoples."

REGARDED AS IMPOSSIBLE.

John Bull For the Most Part Thinks it a Dream.

London, August 29.—The papers are filled with discussions, comments and opinions as to the circular of Emperor Nicholas. The most world-shaking event could hardly have produced such a coup as this suggestion, the fruition of which is regarded on all sides as an absolute impossibility.

This being holiday season, it is difficult to obtain the opinions of public men on the subject. The religious world, however, loudly welcomes and praises the Czar's noble initiative. Numerous bishops have already publicly expressed their views in that sense.

Among statesmen interviewed, Lord

Kimberly, the Liberal leader, declined to express a hasty opinion beyond saying that the proposal was one of the utmost importance.

The Marquis of Ripon said:

"I heartily wish the proposal all success."

Sir Charles Dilke, Radical member of Parliament for the Forest of Dean, remarked:

"The Russian peace footing of nearly a million regiments exceeds the peace footing of Germany, Austria and Italy combined. Thus it has been in Russia's power to reduce the land forces by diminishing her own in connection with a similar action on the part of Germany."

"French public opinion is not prepared for disarmament, which would mean, as things stand now, an acceptance of the Alsace-Lorraine situation. Naval disarmament would be dangerous for Great Britain. Any formal plan would involve subsequent breaches of faith, but if Germany and Russia will cease increasing their forces we can follow without a formal agreement."

Lord Frederick Roberts, of Kandahar commander of the forces in Ireland, said in reply to a request for his opinion:

"It will be most satisfactory if such a proposal can be carried out."

The Earl of Crewe calls the Czar's suggestion a "historical utterance," and earnestly hopes that Great Britain will not object to a conference.

No excitement is noticeable at the Foreign Office. It is understood that a special messenger was sent from St. Petersburg recently with a full explanation of the Czar's proposal.

Naturally all persons and societies connected with peace and arbitration movements are jubilant. The Pope wired his congratulations to Emperor Nicholas immediately and offered every assistance in his power to promote the proposed conference.

The Times in its financial article this morning, says:

"The Czar's circular has had a good effect upon the markets, as indicating that there is no immediate probability of war. Many people remark the fact that the proposal appears when Russia's power to borrow freely is almost ended."

"Our armaments were never intended for selfish ends, but only for our own protection and for the maintenance of peace. We are willing to give a fair trial to another method of attaining the object at a smaller cost."

The National Zeitung says:

"The Czar and his ministers have not deluded themselves with the idea that they can rid the world of the causes which for years have been responsible for the growing armament. When a great power, however, addresses such a proposal to others, they will be recognized everywhere as deserving of the most serious consideration."

The Vossische Zeitung expresses the opinion that the importance of the note does not lie in the proposal of a conference, but in its conception.

The Post warmly eulogizes the Czar's motives, which it adds, "Must everywhere arouse sympathy."

The Kronz Zeitung says:

"No one can yet appreciate the real significance of the note. Its bitter reception in France shows it will not meet universal favor."

According to the Hamburger correspondence, the note will remain forever an imperishable monument to the fame of Emperor Nicholas. Continuing the paper says:

"It stands to reason that Germany welcomes the proposal in the most glad manner and is prepared to co-operate in the sacred work."

The Reverse Side Of the Picture.

Gen Wheeler Makes a Statement Touching Suffering

ENDURED BY SOLDIERS

NOT THE RESULT OF NEGLECT OR INCOMPETENCY.

ILLNESS AND PRIVATION UNAVOIDABLE

No Doubt of Individual Cases of Suffering and Possibly Neglect Among the Soldiers.

The Administration and War Department Blameless.

Camp Wikoff, Montauk, L. I., September 2.—Major General Joseph Wheeler gave the following to the Associated Press to-day:

"Headquarters United States Forces, Camp Wikoff, L. I., September 1, 1898.

"The following is a sample of the letters we are constantly receiving regarding the soldiers in the camp:

"In regard to my step-son, we feel very uneasy about him on account of the suffering inflicted on the private soldiers. Although he has never uttered a complaint since he has been in the army, we hear from other sources of the cruel and horrible treatment inflicted on our soldiers under the pretense of humanity for our neighbors, and the whole country is in a state of terrible excitement. I should not be surprised if the feeling should lead to a revolution of some kind. For I assure you I hear on all sides the violent and bitter denunciations of the War Department and the Administration. It is indeed a great pity that the glory of our triumphs should be dimmed by such a shameful thing as the ill-treatment and starvation of our own brave soldiers while the Spanish prisoners have the best treatment that the country can afford."

"It will be seen that this letter says that not a word of complaint has been received from this soldier and so far as my investigation goes, no complaint has been made by any of the private soldiers in the Cuban campaign. A great many anxious fathers, mothers, brothers or sisters arrive here from all parts of the United States to look after their relatives whom, they say, the papers tell them are suffering, and many of them have heard that their relatives are in a condition of starvation. Most of these people are little able to expend the money for such a journey, and they are surprised when they come here to find their relatives surrounded with everything to eat which can be procured by money; and if sick in the hospital, they are gratified and surprised to find that they are given every possible care."

"In reply to a direct request that I will give the exact facts as I see them, I will state:

"Every officer and soldier who went to Cuba felt that he was given a great and special privilege in being permitted to engage in that campaign. They knew they were to encounter yellow fever and other diseases, as well as the torrid heat of the country, and they were proud and glad to do so. They knew that it was impossible for them to have the advance of wagon transportation which usually accompanies armies, and yet officers and men were glad to go, to carry their blankets and their rations on their backs, and to be subjected without any shelter, to the sun and rains by day and the heavy dews by night. They certainly knew that the Spaniards had spent years in erecting defenses, and it was their pleasure to assault and their duty to capture the Spanish works. They were more than glad to incur the hardships and dangers. They went there to feel that American honor and prestige was to be measured by his conduct. The brave men who won the victories did not complain of the neglect of the government, but on the contrary they seemed grateful to the President and Secretary of War for giving them the opportunity to incur these dangers and hardships. They realized that in the hurried organization of an expedition by a government which had no experience in such matters, it was impossible to have everything arranged to perfection; and they will testify that under the circumstances the conditions were much more perfect than anyone would have reason to expect, and that the President and Secretary of War and others who planned and dispatched these expeditions, deserve high commendation."

"One reason why our army was lacking in some respects in equipment was that a telegram was received from Admiral Sampson stating that if the army reached there immediately they could take the city at once, but if there should be delay, the fortifications of the Spaniards would be so perfected that they might be great difficulty in taking it. On receiving this dispatch from Admiral Sampson, the War Department directed the army to move at once, and as all connected with the army will recall the orders were received after dark, and the army was in motion, had travelled nine miles and was on the ships at daylight. When the expedition sailed for Cuba it went there escorted by a large fleet of warships. At that time it was regarded as impossible for a merchant ship to sail on the ocean safely from any American port to Santiago, but as soon as the Spanish fleet was destroyed so that it was possible for unarmed ships to sail safely to Santiago, the generous people of the United States subscribed money with out limit and dispatched ship after ship loaded with luxuries and delicacies for the Santiago army and everything that could be accomplished for their comfort was done by the President and Secretary of War."

"After the surrender had been completed and arrangements perfected for transporting the Spanish army to Spain, the President and Secretary of War sent shipping to Santiago and transported our army to one of the most healthful locations in the United States. The point selected by the Secretary of War was

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so situated that thorough protection was given the people of the United States from the danger of yellow fever contagion. The soldiers upon their arrival at this place received every care and bounty which could be procured by money. The President and Secretary of War directed that their health and comfort should be cared for without reference to expense, and in addition the people within a circle of one hundred miles vied with each other in shipping to them, carloads and steamboat loads of luxuries of all kinds.

"I have just finished my daily inspection of the hospitals. With rare exceptions the sick are cheerful and improving. I have nurses and doctors to care for them, and in all my many tours I have not found a single patient who made the slightest complaint. It is true there has been suffering, and great suffering. The climate of Cuba was very severe upon all of our soldiers, but instead of complaining, the hearts of those brave men are filled with gratitude to the people for the boundless generosity which has been extended to them."

"There is no doubt that there has been individual cases of suffering and possibly neglect among the soldiers, not only in Cuba, but since their arrival at this place. Nearly 20,000 men were brought from a yellow fever district to the United States. It would have been criminal to have handed them and allowed them to go promiscuously among the people. It has been stated by physicians that if it had been done, yellow fever would have spread through many of our States, and possibly such a catastrophe, a point which was more thoroughly isolated from people than any other locality which could be found, was selected. By these wise means the country has been saved from a scourge of this fearful disease. Everyone will realize that to land 18,000 men and put them on bare fields without any buildings whatever could not be done without some hardships. Over 5,000 very sick men have been received in the general hospital and as many more sick have been cared for in the camp and yet only about sixty deaths have occurred in these hospitals."

"Tents had to be erected and hospitals constructed and preparations made to supply those 18,000 men with wholesome water, food, medicines, physicians, nurses, cooks, hospital furniture, wagons, ambulances and the other needs essential to caring for 18,000 men fully half of whom are very sick or in a feeble physical condition. In addition to this, most of the bedding of the camp was saved from a scourge of this fearful disease. Everyone will realize that to land 18,000 men and put them on bare fields without any buildings whatever could not be done without some hardships. Over 5,000 very sick men have been received in the general hospital and as many more sick have been cared for in the camp and yet only about sixty deaths have occurred in these hospitals."

SHAFTER TALKS OF CUBA.

Will Not Enter the Miles-Alger Controversy—Red Cross at Santiago.

New York, September 1.—General Shafter is now, strictly speaking, by reason of rank, in command of Camp Wikoff, but he will not assume the reins of command until his term in the detention camp is finished. In an interview this afternoon General Shafter said:

"I enjoyed the trip on the Mexico greatly, but more so on account of the ship being a prize. From a casual observation I like Camp Wikoff. It seems just such a place as I should have selected. I will soon acquaint myself thoroughly with all the details of the camp."

"I knew nothing of the Miles-Alger controversy until I was shown a newspaper on my arrival here. I will not discuss it now that I am unfamiliar with the plans of the case, nor will I enter the controversy at any time. Secretary Alger and General Miles can take care of themselves, and so can I."

"The Red Cross and other nurses did good work at Santiago, but the front is hardly the place for women. There was never any real scarcity of food in Cuba, but there were no transportation facilities to get supplies to the front, other than pack trains. The army and sick in hospital down there fared as well as possible in such a climate."

"When I told that it had been denied that there was yellow fever in the camp at Santiago, General Shafter said it was nonsense, as there was yellow fever there and the doctors in Santiago, who knew it like a book said it was yellow fever and nothing else."

Santiago was on the mend, the General said, and the sanitary measures taken by the Americans were having good effect. When asked if it would not be all right as well to allow the men now sick at Santiago to fully recover in Cuba now that the wet season is almost over, he said the best place for every man who could get there was home and that, while the wet season was nearly over, Cuba was not a good country for sick men to be in, and the conditions would remain poor for two months at least. In and around the city there had been two armies in camp and armies did not leave the places where they had been in the best of condition. For a few months the continued things would not be at their best. Santiago, but nature in time would work out her own rehabilitation."

CERVERA WILL LEAVE US NOW.

The Release of Officers and Men Ordered.

Washington, August 31.—Acting Secretary Allen has authorized the release of all the Spanish naval prisoners captured in the battle of July 3rd, from Cervera's fleet. These are now at Annapolis, Seavey's Island, Portsmouth harbor, and Norfolk, the officers being at the academy and the sailors at the island.

The prisoners are to be returned to Spain at the expense of the Spanish Government. This was the condition upon which our government agreed to release them without parole or other restrictions.

KHARTOUM REPORTED CAPTURED.

All Losses Are Said to Approximate Ten Thousand.

London, Sept. 3.—A report which lacks confirmation is current here this evening that the Anglo-Egyptian forces have captured Khartoum. The loss of the Anglo-Egyptian army is two thousand men, while that of the Dervishes is placed at eight thousand.

REPORT UNCONFIRMED.

London, Sept. 3.—Up to a late hour this evening no confirmation of the report of the capture of Khartoum had been received at the Foreign Office or the War Office.