The Semi-Weekly Colonist.

FORTY-FIRST YEAR. THE VICTORIA SEMI-WEEKLY COLONIST THURSDAY MAY 26 1898. VOLUME NO. 47

WASHINGTON ADVICES.

Navy Department Knows Nothing New Except the Cutting of Two Cables.

Reports of Decisive Engagement not Credited—Troops for Manila Leave To-Day.

Washington, May 24.—There was a lapse into sensational war rumors in Washington to-day after a week of comparative quietude. Rumors ranged all the way from the capture of the little Mangrove with a crew of thirteen men, to the reported destruction of the entire Spanish fleet by Sampson's and Schley's combined forces. These were circulated with persistence notwithstanding denials as soon as they could be brought to the attention of any official capable of passing judgment on their accuracy. As the day rolled along the officials themselves became apprehensive, as was shown by the frequency with which they called for the latest newspaper bulletins. At the close of the day, however, it was again announced in the most positive manner that the navy department had no information to warrant the report of any sort of engagement in the Windward passage. This did not specifically deal with the matter of the West Indies, but in view of the fact that the department has almost pledged itself to let the public know of anything in the nature of a general engagement possibly the bulletin announcement is sufficient to cover the case. This, made at 6:35 this afternoon, was as follows:

"The department has no reason to believe that a battle has occurred in the Windward passage.

"The auxiliary cruiser St. Louis has cut the cable at Santiago de Cuba and San Juan de Porto Rico."

IS CERVERA GOING HOME?

Washington, May 24.—The navy department have advices from Cadiz that the torpedo boat destroyers Destruction and Proserpina, have been put in order and are ready to start with Cervera's fleet as soon as it reaches Cadiz en route to the Philippines. The Alfonso XIII. and Pelago are expected to remain at Cadiz with the home squadron. The navy department is suspicious of the news so far as it relates to Cervera's movements.

May 24.—A despatch to the ews from Madrid says that t is announced that Admiral tart to-morrow to rejoin his uld not be surprising to learn quadron had already left, and rcesense of Camara as well as ouncements anent the fleet's g westward, have been a ver its departure.

'S FOR PHILIPPINES.

Transports Sail From San isco To-day—Situation at Manila Desperate.

rancisco, May 24.—Four com- the 14th Infantry, regulars, regiment of Oregon volunteers, cked battlion of fifty Californis tillery, left the Presidio to-day ded the transports City of Syd- Australia, preparatory to start- anila. About noon two steam- the docks and anchored out in am near the City of Peking. e finishing touches will be given rgoes of the transports, and to- orning the three big steamships for Manila.

leans, May 24.—The 18th and nents of infantry, and the 5th of cavalry, which have been at the fair grounds, left this , the former two regiments for ppines via San Francisco and fort Mobile. The 18th and 23rd s are 1,220 strong and the cev- ber 612.

York, May 24.—A despatch to ld from Hong Kong says: The t at Manila is desperate. Food e and meat is exhausted, while ned stuff is nearly gone. Two will exhaust all supplies. A dele- is said to be preparing to wait ted States Consul Williams, as zens fear an outbreak. The in- s control the surrounding coun- d Chief Aguinalado has arrived s staff to organize the rebels. The ts are moving from Cavite. Span- ials say that 500 were killed and sounded in the bombardment by

All classes are waiting anxi- he arrival of our troops. There ckness on our ships.

er despatch from Manila the German consul there o land provisions from a ship, but Admiral Dewey permission. The consul eclared, according to the des- that he would force a landing he protection of two German , but Admiral Dewey threatened upon the cruisers, and the at- land supplies was abandoned.

cial to the New York World from n, Jamaica, says: "A despatch d by the military authorities here nday announces the signing of a ve Anglo-American treaty, and es that a war crisis is imminent, ately affecting Jamaica. All mil- d naval leaves have been cancel- supplies for eighteen months g stored."

GHTING FOR ONTARIO.

s Against Leaders on Both Sides Be Pushed to the Utmost.

to, May 24.—The Conservatives tered a protest again the election mier Hardy in South Brant and berals have taken similar pro- s against Mr. Whitney in Dun- promises to be a fight to a fin-

Constipation take Karl's Clover Root e great Blood Purifier. Cures Head- Nervousness, Eruptions on the face, akes the head clear as a bell. Sold s H. Bowes.

h's Consumption Cure cures where fail. It is the leading Cough Cure and e should be without it. Pleasant to nd goes right to the spot. Sold by B. Bowes.

A VILLAGE BURNED.

Fire Destroys the Houses on the Kynessen Indian Reserve on Cowichan Flats.

An Old and Helpless Woman Loses Her Life in Midst of the Flames.

While the Indians from the Kynessen reservation were here in Victoria enjoying the celebration, fire swept away their homes and turned their joy into mourning, for not only were the houses destroyed, but a woman of the tribe was burned to death. The Kynessen reserve is near Tzonhalim mountain, Cowichan flats and the members of the little community number about a hundred. On Monday the village was deserted by all but an old and feeble woman who was unable to accompany her friends to the city, and there were also one or two other people looking after her. From some unknown cause fire broke out in the cabin in which was the old woman, and soon the whole line of houses in the little reserve were ablaze. There were probably in all 27 or 28 houses, including the big rancherie, and though people in the surrounding district rushed to the rescue they were unable to stay the course of the flames. Dr. D. Helmcken happened to be on Tzonhalim mountain at the time and saw the fire. The alarm, he says, was given and people ran as quickly as possible to help but it was all to no purpose. Of course the Indians being practically wards of the Indian department the loss will not fall so heavily on them as it would on the inhabitants of a white village, but even then it is a very serious thing for the Indians.

SHORT DESPATCHES.

Chicago Irishmen Against the Alliance—Forty-Five Miners Burned—Relief for Missionaries.

The Irish societies of Chicago at a big mass meeting in Central Music Hall, presided over by John M. Smyth, a prominent merchant, adopted resolutions emphatically condemning the suggested alliance between the United States and Great Britain as "uncalled for and nationally degrading, at variance with American tradition and the sentiments of a majority of the American people, who are not of British birth or ancestry."

A force of troops has relieved the missionaries and others at Kwellu, West Coast of Africa, whose lives were imperilled by the uprising of the natives against the imposition of the hut tax.

In the British Commons on Monday the foreign secretary, Mr. Curzon, announced that Russia had informed the British government that the circular of the Russian consul at Tientsin announcing that British or other subjects of foreign powers would not be allowed at Talienwan without passports vised by Russian consuls had been issued without its knowledge and had been withdrawn. The announcement was greeted with cheers.

Jack Daly got the decision over Kid McPharland on a foul in the fifteenth round, at New York Monday night.

The Right Hon. Spencer Horatio Walpole Spencer, secretary for the home department in Lord Derby's first, second and third administrations, is dead.

At Dortmund, Prussia, fire in the Zollerin mine has caused the loss of probably forty-five lives. Thirty bodies had been taken out up to Monday morning.

Sir John T. Gilbert, the historian, is dead. He was born in Dublin in 1829.

That Chief Arthur still retains his grip on the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers was clearly shown at St. Louis on Saturday, when that body by the vote of 290 to 205 refused to adopt the federation clause. It required a two thirds vote to carry the resolution.

ACCIDENT AT LADNER'S LANDING.

A Bale of Hay Falls on the Shoulder of a Prominent Citizen.

I was badly crippled with a sprained shoulder, and the doctor told me I would not be able to raise my arm for a week. I procured a bottle of Griffith's Magic Liniment, and after three rubbings I was back to work the day after the accident. I have used many different liniments, but Griffith's Magic Liniment is the best. This liniment and my quick recovery are the talk of the village.

(Signed) J. McLAREN,
Carriage Builder.

MURDER OF MISSIONARIES.

Cold Blooded Butchery of Men and Women on the West Coast of Africa.

London, May 25.—A letter received in this city from Sierre Leone, west coast of Africa, says that a Mendi native who was with the American missionaries at Rotufunk when they were massacred by the insurgents engaged in the uprising against the imposition of the hut tax, but who made his escape by resuming his native garb, furnishes the following account of the tragedy: We started to walk to Sierra Leone, but had only gone half a mile when we met war boys who blocked the way. The Rev. Mr. Caine tried to frighten them by firing a revolver over their heads but seeing they were determined to do mischief he cast his revolver away and said he would not have any blood on his hands. The war boys then seized the party and Misses Hatfield, Archer and Kent, stripped them of their clothing, and dragged them back to the mission house, in front of which the war boys cut down the Rev. Mr. Cain and hacked him to death, and treated Miss Archer and Miss Kent in the same way. Miss Hatfield, who was very ill, was thrown on a barbed wire netting and finally her throat was cut. Mrs. Cain escaped to the bush with a native girl but the war boys found them and they were killed.

What Dr. A. E. Salter Says.

Buffalo, Y.Y.—Gents:—From my personal knowledge, gained in observing the effect of your Shiloh's Cure in cases of advanced Consumption, I am prepared to say it is the most remarkable Remedy that has ever been brought to my attention. It has certainly saved many from Consumption. Sold by Cyrus H. Bowes.

NEUTRALS HEARD FROM

Interesting Points in the Declarations of Some of the Great Powers.

British Government Expresses Regret That Two of Its Friends Should Quarrel.

Washington, May 24.—The consular representatives to-day give notice of the declaration of neutrality by five countries—Russia, Greece, Venezuela, the Netherlands and Canada. Particular importance attaches to the declaration by Venezuela because her ports would be of inestimable value to the Spanish fleet as places of refuge and coal supply. The notice is dated Caracas, April 29, and expresses Venezuela's position in the one sentence: "The republic will preserve the strictest neutrality during the contest."

The Dutch proclamation cautions all citizens of the Netherlands from becoming in any way involved in privateering, and against the acceptance of any foreign privateering ships' papers, under penalty of prosecution. This provision may be of value to the United States in the event that Spain should resort to issue of letters of marque. The same citizens are also enjoined to respect the blockades. Touching coal supply the Dutch regulation is that this shall be supplemented only to the extent necessary to permit the ship to reach the nearest port of the country to which it belongs or that of one of its allies in the wars, belligerents are forbidden to bring prizes into the Netherland waters.

The Canadian proclamation is in the terms of that of Great Britain, except as to the preamble.

The British declaration has one important statement not usual in such cases, as follows: "The disagreements, which have recently arisen between Spain and the United States of America have induced the Imperial government to seek, in concert with the other powers, some means which might prevent an armed conflict between these two countries. Unhappily our friendly measures are without results, and a state of war now exists between Spain and the United States. It is with keen regret that the Imperial government witnesses an armed conflict between two state to which it is united by old friendship and deep sympathy. It is firmly resolved to observe with regard to these two belligerents a perfect and impartial neutrality."

The Grecian declaration is contained in a line stating that a strict neutrality will be maintained.

TOLD IN PARAGRAPHS.

Blockade Runner Honored by Spain—Exchange of Prisoners Depending on Cervera.

It is announced at Bremen that the North German Lloyd Company have sold the steamer Havel to the firm of Cresta, a Hamburg concern. The purchasers do not appear to be ship owners. The Havel has sailed presumably for the Mediterranean.

Col. Vincent de Cortijo and Dr. Esadore Julian and two of the Spanish privates, all of whom have been under arrest at Fort McPherson barracks, have been taken away from Atlanta to Key West, on the way to Havana, where they will be exchanged for the American newspaper correspondents, Thrall and Jones.

The grand cordon of naval merit has been conferred upon Capt. Deschampa, of the Spanish steamer Montserrat, which recently arrived at Corunna from Cienfuegos. The Queen Regent personally presented the Captain with the insignia.

The Spanish steamer Rabat, of the Compagnie Transatlatique line, has embarked a battalion at Algieras, on the west side of the bay of Gibraltar, and sailed for Ceuta, Morocco, opposite Gibraltar.

Senor Arturo Amblard, the autonomist leader and senator and secretary of justice in the Cuban cabinet, has arrived at Kingston, Jamaica, from Vera Cruz, on the French steamer Lafayette, which left Havana May 9. He is bound for Madrid.

Fearing that her cargo of coal might fall into the hands of the Spanish warships in Cuban waters, or that the coal is intended for a Spanish port, the collector of customs at Philadelphia has detained the German steamer Amrum pending instructions from Washington. The coal is consigned to the Mexican railroad to be delivered at Vera Cruz, Mexico.

In the Spanish chamber of deputies yesterday the minister of finance, replying to criticisms with respect to the financial policy of the government repudiated the charge of want of foresight and asserted that Spain's finances were in satisfactory condition, assuring the payment of all the expenses of the war.

LORD WOLSELEY'S OPINION.

Fortunate for United States That War is Not With a First-Class Power.

London, May 24.—Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the British army, in conversation with an American today said: "The United States would make a mistake in attempting to invade Cuba with volunteers who are not fully drilled and disciplined. If that was done the United States might expect heavy reverses when these troops encountered the trained Spanish troops on land. It would be a grave error to underestimate the strength of the adversaries of the American troops. It would cause me regret to see the Americans even temporarily beaten as all my sympathies are with them.

"It is fortunate for the United States that this war is not with a first class power for it is evident that in such an encounter they would be badly beaten at the beginning, though I believe the Americans are able to beat any nation in the long run."

Will be found an excellent remedy for sixk headache. Carter's Little Liver Pills. Thousands of letters from people who have used them prove this fact.

NEWS OF THE CAPITAL.

Government Decision as to Aid for the Yukon Railway Reserved Until To-Day.

Mackenzie & Mann May Go Before Exchequer Court With Their Claim for Damages.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, May 24.—The cabinet sat today until well into the afternoon. The finishing touches were given to the supplementary estimates and the Montreal harbor loan was considered. The important question of the Yukon railway proposition was discussed, but final decision was reserved until to-morrow. It is said to-night, however, that the majority of members are opposed to doing anything this year.

The government will not suggest any sum to parliament as indemnity to Mackenzie & Mann for the non-ratification of the Yukon railway contract by parliament. Instead it has been decided to grant them a fiat so that they may enter suit against the government in the Exchequer court for the amount of their alleged loss, so that they may prove before Judge Burbidge the actual loss they have sustained.

Canadian registrars of shipping and agents of the marine department have been notified by government circular that attempts may be made by agents of belligerents to purchase Canadian coal laden ships and send them to sea for war purposes. Registrars and agents must therefore report any suspicious movements in that direction and changes in registered ownership of vessels at any Canadian port.

There was a great military review here this morning by the Governor-General. The usual royal salute was fired at noon. To-night a state dinner was given in the Government House in honor of Her Majesty's birthday, followed by a reception at which nearly a thousand people were present.

BRITAIN HAS HER WAY

France Amicably Arranges West African Difficulty Which Gave Promise of War.

Russia not Willing to Fight Just at Present but Trouble Yet in Store.

Paris, May 22.—The Figaro publishes the important announcement that the delicate Niger question, which threatened to lead to an Aglo-French war, has been settled and that an agreement between the two governments will be signed this week at the French foreign office. The agreement will be satisfactory to both nations. It involves mutual concessions, the chief being that the town of Boussa which the French occupied, but which England claimed by earlier treaties, was given to England while France will retain Nikki and two towns in the middle. The line of demarcation starts from Polo on the Niger and runs southwest, leaving Nakki inside the French sphere. The importance of Boussa lies in the fact that it is the highest town to which the Niger is navigable.

New York, May 22.—The London correspondent of the Sun, referring to the report sent on Friday last to the effect that Great Britain had served notice on France to get out of South Africa at once, says: "Nothing further has developed regarding the report that Great Britain insists that France shall abandon forthwith all her claims to the African hinterland. Most of the Paris reports on this subject are pacific while those from British sources are quite the contrary. It is probable at all events that the French government wishes to avoid a crisis on this subject for the present, both on account of her own interests and because Russia does not desire a collision at this moment."

Then French attitude is that of temporary conciliation, which does not satisfy the British government. Whether the latter has seen fit to demand the definite withdrawal of the French pretensions in West Africa is impossible to say, but if this has been done, it by no means follows that war will result, for it is more than doubtful in Russia that Russia would support France in refusing at such cost. Indications multiply, however, that Russian hostility to England has recently become so deep and implacable that the change involves the Czar's personal attitude.

According to the latest reports Princess Victoria of Schelswig-Holstein, who spent the winter with the Czar and Czarina in St. Petersburg, is quoted as having interesting information on this point. The Princess says that the Czar could not have been more friendly towards England than he was until January, when he took umbrage at the action of England in China. He is now furiously anti-English. It appears that his Majesty expected to have China left solely to him. He thinks that if he does not interfere with England in India England should not interfere with him in China.

If you once try Carter's Little Liver Pills for sick headache, biliousness or constipation you will never be without them. They are purely vegetable, small and easy to take. Don't forget this. *

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.

WASHINGTON WONDERS

Nothing Known as to Location of the Spanish Fleet or the Movements Against It.

Seventy-Five Thousand Additional Volunteers Called for by President's Proclamation.

Washington, May 25.—The event of the day in the war situation was the issuance of a proclamation by the President calling for 75,000 more volunteers. It added a new and striking phase to the lethargy which has almost vailed of late and came with almost startling unexpectedness, even to many of the high officials in the army. The proclamation means not only the assembling of a large force of troops but also the appointment of a large number of major-generals and brigadier generals, colonels, majors and staff and field officers, for the organization of the additional force of 75,000 into army corps, divisions, brigades and regiments.

The new force will require either by appointment or by officers already appointed three major-generals and about twenty-four brigadier generals. The law authorizes the President to appoint one major-general for each army corps and one brigadier general for each brigade. Brigadier generals are also assigned to command divisions when the organization advances to that stage. The colonels, lieutenant colonels, majors, captains and lieutenants are appointed by the governors of the various states as the law provides that "all regimental and company officers shall be appointed by the governor of states in which their respective organizations are raised."

It is stated at the war department that the probabilities were that the organization of this new force would not be actively taken up for the present. Just now the adjutant-general's office is engaged in completing the enlistment of the 125,000 volunteers under the first call. It will take some time to complete this work and not until then will the real work of organizing the volunteers under the second call begin.

Reports were current to-day that an army of invasion was about to start for Cuba and Porto Rico. It was based on the conjecture which has been current of late, but officials in authority gave is no endorsement as it was manifestly contrary of public policy to give any advance information of such a move even if it was contemplated. The report that General Miles and his staff would leave to-night was specifically denied, although it is probable the commanding general will leave for the South at an early day. At the close of the day at the navy department the situation of the fleets both American and Spanish are precisely as it was this morning, so far as the officials knew, the only notable difference being an apparent strengthening of the confidence of officials in their belief that Cervera's squadron is lying in the Santiago harbor. In this hope and belief the officials found great comfort, knowing the abilities of the American naval commanders in Cuban waters to keep the Spanish admiral bottled up in his narrow neck harbor until he shall surrender or be starved out.

If Cervera is actually at bay the officials feel not the slightest apprehension of relief coming to him from the outside in the shape of another Spanish squadron from Cadiz. The reason for this belief is their unquestioned ability to hold Cervera in check with only a few vessels, perhaps a couple of monitors and torpedo boats, thus leaving the remainder of the big armored fleet and great number of unarmored vessels and other war craft to take care of any reinforcements that might attempt to come from Spain to Cervera's aid. The force that could be spared for this service without endangering the integrity of the blockade at Havana or permitting the escape of Cereva's ships would be much larger than the entire Spanish naval force now in Spanish waters capable of crossing the Atlantic.

The news of the safe arrival of the Oregon in Americanwaters was a source of unalloyed satisfaction to all naval officers. Within the past few weeks or in fact ever since the determination was positively reached to invade Cuba before the dry season next fall, there have been published intimations that the delay, or what appeared to be the delay, in beginning the invasion, was attributed to the navy, or in other words the army had long been prepared to start for Cuba but could not do so for lack of convoys and ships to insure landing. It can be stated on the highest authority that the impression thus created is wholly unjust to the navy and without warrant in fact. The navy officers one and all take special pride in the degree of readiness in which the navy was found at the outbreak of hostilities and there never has been a moment, even when Sampson's forces were at Porto Rico, when the navy was not prepared on instant notice to aid the army in effecting a landing in Cuba, nor on the other hand has the army been at fault in this matter. To equip an army of 100,000 men and put them in condition to fight trained veteran soldiers on their own soil was no small undertaking, so that in the opinion of the highest officers of the administration there is no good ground for passing the criticism that there is or has been undue delay in beginning the military campaign, either on the part of the army or navy.

A man may dress as well as his own good judgment and the assistance of the artistic tailor may elect. He may take his "tubs" but if his digestive organs are out of order, he will have an unwholesome appearance. His complexion and the white of his eyes will have a yellowish cast. His tongue will be coated, appetite poor, his teeth rusty, his breath abominable. He is one big, unmistakable sign of constipation. The quickest, surest, easiest way to cure this trouble is to take Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. They are made of refined, concentrated vegetable extracts. Nothing in the least harmful enters into their composition. They hunt down all impurities, and "make them move on." They are the product of many years' study and practice. Dr. Pierce cannot afford to put forth a worthless article.

Address with 31 cents in one-cent stamps, to cover cost of mailing only, World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N.Y., and get a free copy of the "Medical Adviser."

RAILWAY AID PUT OFF

Sir Wilfrid Omits Yukon Railway Project From the Business for This Session.

Sons of England Incorporation Sent to Committee Against Vote of Ministers.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Ottawa, May 25.—As foreshadowed last night the Yukon railway project will not be taken up as a government proposition for this session. The Premier in making his announcement to-day did not mention the Yukon at all, but simply said: "The government has no further legislation of any importance to bring to the attention of parliament this session." He then mentioned two or three bills of routine character yet to be brought down. The attack made by the Ontario Liberals at the last party caucus is said to have settled the Yukon business.

Sir Richard Cartwright informed Mr. Earle that regulations in connection with silver-lead smelting were passed in July, 1897. No amount had been paid under the regulation for the reason that the government has received no returns from smelters. It is not contemplated to make any changes in these regulations.

There were 71,977 placer mining claims in Yukon recorded up to March 30.

Bates & Sons, wholesale grocers of Ottawa got contracts to supply the Yukon military contingent to the amount of $30,000. Public tenders were not called for, only a few favored firms being asked.

There was a lively discussion in the Commons over the United States railway regulations which the government has approved for adoption by the Grand Trunk. Employees of the company are protesting against the regulations, some being of a dangerous character. Mr. Blair said he would endeavor to re-open the matter. Premier Laurier declined to tell Sir Charles Tupper the attitude of the government would assume when the result of the prohibition vote is known, whether a majority of the registered vote will be required for the introduction of prohibition or whether the majority of votes cast would induce the government to introduce a measure. He said the temperance people had never asked him to answer those questions. The plebiscite bill passed.

The Sons of England Incorporation bill, on a vote of 85 to 44, reached committee stage to-night. All the ministers present voted against the measure.

Mr. Smart, deputy minister of the interior, told the committee on colonization that the agent of the interior department at St. Paul, B. Davies, is a broher of the minister of marine.

The government will lend the Montreal Harbor Commissioners $2,000,000 for enable them to complete the harbor works.

The senate to-day congratulated the Speaker on the honor of knighthood conferred upon him.

The bill to incorporate the Pacific railway, Hamilton Smith's company, passed the senate.

PIGEONS IN WAR.

Newspaper Birds Made a Welcome Addition to the Bill of Fare.

A correspondent writes from Key West:

Some of the newspapers have trained pigeons to carry the news from the blockading fleet to this island city. The efficiency of the service is a matter that is open to question, for while the homers have been regulated with regularity and dispatch, the cote on this end is barren and bleak-looking. The sailors of the warships in position off the Pearl of the Antilles have had a regular picnic with the birds. Released from the newspaper dispatch boat, the homers, after a few circles of the air have alighted on the fighting tops or masts of the fleet and have been trapped by the sailors, who have been curious to know what news their messages contained. Not a few of the ships had to leave Key West in a hurry and with a limited supply of fresh provisions on board it was the question of a day or two at most before both officers and men had to buckle down to the not desirable menu of ship's stores, that is, provisions supplied by the government. There is no turkey, turtle, game or custard pie in ship's stores, and the modern tar, whether forward or aft likes these things. The other evening the members of the wardroom of the Iowa sat down to dinner with a groan. The first few courses were gone over in a well-a-man-must-eat-something style, when the Japanese waiters came in with something that looked unfamiliar. Capt. Evans was dining in the wardroom that night, and as the waiter laid the course in front of him he looked at it suspiciously for a second or two and then said:

"Say, boy, what is this?"

"Bird, sir."

"Bird? Where the mischief did you get a bird. Must be last year's vintage."

"Fighting Bob" looked around the table and saw that the others had birds, too, or what looked like birds. Everybody, like himself, seemed surprised, and he noticed that the surgeon and paymaster brought their noses down to a level with their plates. He did likewise, hung in the balance a second or two and then, noticing that the others had begun the siege, he too took what he considered great chances and started to eat. There was little left of the birds in comparatively few minutes, and when the waiters returned to remove the plates the blunt seadog said to the one serving him:

"That was an excellent bird. What do you call it?"

"A homer, sir," said the waiter. And seeing that the commander did not understand, the Jap added: "A bird to carry messages from the reporters."

"Where did they get them?"

"Caught them, sir, seven of them in all. One of them had this paper tied to his leg:"

He handed a torn piece of manifold paper to the captain, who looked it over and said:

"Oh, it's to that lying sheet. It says the Spaniards are gathered on the beach and look as if they intend to fight. Take it away. I can digest the bird, but that message—never."