

ON TO HAVANA!

The U. S. Squadron Sails From Key West—Thought To Have Gone To Havana.

No Further News From Manila—Troops To Go To Dewey's Assistance.

Hongkong, May 4.—The United States despatch boat McCulloch has arrived at Manila Bay. It is said she left Manila before the battle.

A Huge Deficit.—The secretary of the navy sent to the house today the deficiency estimates of \$20,375,000 for the remainder of the fiscal year of 1893.

To Strike In Force.—Lisbon, May 4.—News has been received that the Spanish Cape Verde squadron has returned to the Spanish fleet near Cadix, which will shortly start for American waters.

Troops for Manila.—Washington, D. C., May 4.—The government has obtained possession of the new mail steamship City of Peking, now at San Francisco.

Key West Squadron Shifts.—Key West, Fla., May 4.—This harbor is again empty. Admiral Sampson's fleet has sailed, and the situation is one of renewed expectancy.

Philippine to the President.—Washington, May 4.—The president announced today that he would shortly pardon John D. Hart, of the filibuster steamer Lamuda, now serving a two-year sentence in the penitentiary for his Cuban filibustering operations.

Hawaii as a Gift.—Honolulu, April 27, via San Francisco, May 4.—President McKinley is offering to transfer the Hawaiian Islands to the United States for the purpose of making Hawaii a free American port.

Only a Conjecture.—London, May 4.—At noon, London time, the Hongkong-Manila cable was interrupted. It is as yet only a conjecture.

Congratulations to Dewey.—New York, May 4.—A world despatch from Hongkong, says: "Congratulations from Americans to Commodore Dewey in the shape of a large number of cable despatches were forwarded to the commander-to-day by the English cruiser Inimitable, which has left for Manila. The cable is still interrupted."

OFF TO JOIN THE CUBANS.—Wealthy Men of New York Have Gone To Assist Gomez.—New York, May 3.—William Astor Chanler has departed for New York with three companies of the army and a detachment of the Cuban forces.

Mr. Chanler goes by rail for Key West and will leave that place by the first vessel that makes the coast to take him to the Cuban coast which will be convenient for reaching the camp of Gomez.

Mr. Chanler's party will be informed in the garb of the insurgent army and will be met by every provision for such a hazardous trip. The failure of his regiment to be accepted prompted Mr. Chanler to get up his expedition.

AUTONOMIST CABINET.—New Cuban Officials Assume Duties—Very Ceremonious Affair.—New York, May 3.—The Cuban autonomist cabinet, chosen a week ago, was ceremoniously conducted in office Wednesday by General Blanco, who has just received his proclamation as a Havana correspondent.

The captain general, accompanied by a squadron of dragoons, will go from the palace through Bishop street and Obispo square, which is to be occupied by the parliament.

Fifteen cannon shots will announce that the captain general has left the palace. An equal number will be fired when he reaches the cabinet building.

He will be met by a committee from the cabinet and when he enters the hall of meeting he will be escorted by the secretary of dispatches and the commandant known as the censor, and the secretary of the general government. In advance will be the Cuban cabinet committee.

It is ordered that when the governor general enters the hall, every person present shall stand up. Captain General Blanco will occupy the chair of state.

The secretary of dispatches and the secretary of the general government will be on either side. Behind him will be men chosen by him.

As soon as the captain general sits down the members of the cabinet will place their hats on the floor.

The president of the council of secretaries will address the cabinet at the address of the opening of the session and will then withdraw to his seat.

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OUR OTTAWA LETTER

Amicable Feeling Between Canada and the United States Will Benefit Both Countries.

The Plebiscite Bill and Its Provisions—Statistics Regarding the Mounted Police Force.

British Columbia Sugar Refinery Complainants About the Preference Shown West Indian Planters.

Ottawa, April 25.—The preparations for war going on now in the United States and the kindly feeling being extended towards the American people by the government of the United Kingdom and the British press generally are having a good effect on the Canadian mind.

Statistics of the trade of Spain show that the year 1892 has been no more fortunate than the preceding one. The trade is depressed by present difficulties and dread of the future.

SPAIN'S TRADE DEPRESSED.—The Commercial Conditions Being More and More Restricted.—New York, May 3.—A dispatch from London says: "H. W. Harrison, commercial attache of the British embassy at Madrid, reports to the foreign office."

"Statistics of the trade of Spain show that the year 1892 has been no more fortunate than the preceding one. The trade is depressed by present difficulties and dread of the future."

In spite of the change of government during last autumn, financial conditions and questions remained unaltered, and the position has been aggravated daily by such difficulties as being rapidly extended.

As prices increase, consumption decreases, industry languishes, affecting all classes of population.

The rise of exchange on foreign countries, the crisis in agriculture, the heavy taxes and high duties imposed by the tariff now in force, have decreased exports and tend to limit them to absolute necessities, articles that cannot be produced cheaply at home.

"Exports, although they have recovered during recent years from the loss suffered after the renunciation of the commercial treaties, are not really beneficial to the producer, as they appear. The want of capital and the consequent necessity to sell at once makes the manufacturer a prey ready to the speculator, who thus gains the greater share of the profits."

Japan Proclaims Strict Neutrality—Thrilling Experience on the C.P.R.—Vancouver, May 4.—It is reported here that an American gunboat has been seen off the coast, its object is supposed to be the capture of a Spanish lumber vessel.

Rev. Christmas, the faith healer, yesterday held a public baptism in English Bay, on Saturday morning, at 10 o'clock.

Last night's public meeting called to discuss arrangements for holding a world's championship scull race, was held at the Gaudaur and R. N. Johnston, on Burrard street, this summer, proved somewhat of a failure.

Japan has proclaimed strict neutrality in regard to the Spanish-American war. The Japanese consul at Vancouver, Mr. Shimizu has received the following declaration from his government:

"His Imperial Majesty has been pleased to proclaim strict neutrality respecting the war which unfortunately has broken out between the United States and Spain."

Passengers on Monday's Pacific express had a thrilling experience on Sunday night shortly after leaving City Williams, when a fair rate of speed the engineer suddenly saw on rounding a curve that the trestle bridge over swampy ground was on fire, and low far burned through it was impossible to say as the train was rapidly approaching the bridge to permit the brakes to stop her in time.

The engine kept on its way, and in the moment left the danger far behind. The sudden plunge into the glare and heat of the burning bridge was a thrilling experience for all on board.

The party left the Waldorf-Astoria and took a night train out of the city. The greatest secrecy was observed by all concerned. But it was not long before the guests of the hotel, friends of Mr. Chanler heard of it, and wished him God-speed on his departure.

LACROSSE.—A Senior Team After All.—Very general regret was expressed last week when the decision of the Canadian team to disband was made known, and it was hoped that in spite of such decision the players and lovers of the national game would get success in organizing a senior team.

At a meeting held at Vancouver on Saturday the following lacrosse schedule was adopted for the coming season: May 14—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Vancouver.

May 21—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Westminster.

June 1—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Westminster.

July 1—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Vancouver.

July 8—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Westminster.

July 15—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Vancouver.

July 22—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Westminster.

July 29—Vancouver vs. Westminster at Vancouver.

CELEBRATION NOTES.

How the Arrangements for Victoria's Gala Time Are Progressing.

The Fifth Regiment will add considerably to the attractiveness of the program of the gala time for May 23rd and 24th by their drill and other entertainments in the drill hall.

Another Trio of Schooners Arrive in Port This Morning—Small Catches.—Monthly Freight and Shipping Report of E. P. Rithet & Co.—The Seattle Arrives.

Another trio of sealing schooners have returned from the sealing grounds, the Ocean Rover, Capt. Ryan; the Zillah May, Capt. Balcom, and the Mermaid, Capt. Anderson.

Applications for programmes are being received from the cities of the South and in the province, and Secretary Boggs and his assistant are already busy answering the many enquiries which are being received regarding the various items to sport.

Advertising is an essential requisite for the success of a celebration is an article of belief with all who have experience in the arrangement of them, and the printing committee have decided to call for tenders for 400 four-color posters and 4,000 envelopes as a commencement.

One of the novelties suggested for the sports in a race for miners around the Boston Highlands, and none but holders of mining licenses to be eligible. Another is a rock drilling contest for miners only.

The much-talked-of Gaudaur-Johnson championship single scull race will not be rowed in Victoria. The possibility of such an event being arranged during the short time intervening between now and the date of the celebration is very small.

The general impression is that Bob Johnson's offer to row in Victoria was intended merely as a "spur" to the Terminal City sport-loving fraternity to hasten the arrangements for holding the great pulled-off by our Burd Inlet.

DEFY COMPETITION.—Victoria's Advantages as an Outfitting and Shipping Point Confirmed.—After Thorough Investigation the Gold Hunters Decide to Take Passage From Here.

The long drawn out fight of the Gold Hunters' Association for preferential rates to the north will be terminated Friday, when the contract between that body and a Victoria steamship company will be signed.

The agitation which led to the formation of the Gold Miners' Association has been in progress for two or three weeks, and the progress of the negotiation which came into existence in the transportation companies has been made more or less familiar to the public through the daily press.

Throughout the trouble there were those who contended that much lower rates should be given to Vancouver, Seattle and other coast cities, and finally definite offers were tabled by firms in some of those cities.

It is known only to the members of the committee that the accommodation provided was "hoggish" and such as they could not accept.

"We are perfectly sure of that," replied Mr. Zantani, "and the companies here are first class in that respect."

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