

# THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

THE VERY LATEST FROM ALL THE WORLD OVER.

Interesting Items About Our Own Country, Great Britain, the United States, and All Parts of the Globe, Condensed and Assorted for Easy Reading.

## CANADA.

The Manitoba Legislature has prorogued.

Galt contemplates purchasing its waterworks plant.

Montreal has reduced the tax on bicycles from \$2 to \$1.

French-Canadians in Massachusetts are returning to Quebec.

A rich gold find is reported from the vicinity of Rat Portage.

Montreal refineries advanced the price of sugar by one-sixteenth cent per pound.

Montreal contemplates purchasing a farm near the city as a home for paupers and beggars.

The Railway Committee gave assent to the bill chartering the Toronto & Hudson Bay Railway.

The H. G. & B. Railway shareholders at Hamilton have decided to issue debentures for \$20,000.

The Dominion line steamship *Scotsman* is the first ocean vessel to reach Montreal this season.

The falling off of the Klondike rush has caused a material reduction in the cost of packing over the passes.

Galt councillors have asked the Government to investigate the manner in which licenses are issued there.

Several London young ladies were badly injured in a runaway, the bus in which they were riding colliding with a pole.

The Council of the Toronto Board of Trade has passed a resolution favoring an export duty on nickel-copper ores and matte.

James Lawson, collector of customs at Fort Erie, has been appointed special officer to enforce the alien labour law there.

Gunnors Boucher and Paget deserted from "A" Battery, Kingston, and went to the States to take service in the American army.

The report that Mr. Harris, general traffic manager of the Government system of railways, has resigned, is denied at Ottawa.

It is reported at Montreal that the G. T. R. has commenced the construction at their Point St. Charles works of 25 new locomotives.

A number of Italians in Toronto have appealed to the Italian Consul for information as to what route they should take in order to join the Spanish Army.

Councillor Martin, of Woodstock, claims to have been bribed for his vote in the purchase of a steam roller. He has given the money to the Mayor.

Mr. Bicknell, a Napanee cattle buyer, injured at the Lansdowne wreck on the G. T. R., has recovered a judgment for \$5,000 damages against the company.

The steamer *Andrew Carnegie*, Chicago, brought 230,000 bushels of corn to Owen Sound. This is said to be the largest cargo of corn ever floated on fresh water.

The Kingston City Council has declined to consider the request of the Dominion Cotton Mills Co. asking for a bonus of \$50,000. The amount was considered too large.

Charles N. Daly, United States Consul at Guelph, has served the *Guelph Herald* with notice of a libel action. The alleged libel was contained in a dramatic criticism.

The Fire Underwriters' Association have presented Hamilton with an ultimatum calling on the city to improve the water service or pay increased insurance rates after June 1.

The *MacLeod Gazette* says: An Indian named Carrier died suddenly at the Bullhead of heart disease this week. Some \$20,000 in bonds and mortgages are reported to have been found on his person.

While the members of the Stratford Congregational Church were passing a sympathetic war resolution the pastor of Knox Church in the same city was denouncing such acts as being contrary to the neutrality laws.

The St. John N. B. City Council has granted the Canadian Pacific railway all the land required for the enlargement of the grain elevator to one million bushels capacity, with conveyors to five steamship berths.

The Manitoba & North-western Railway Company are seeking to be relieved of their liability to the Manitoba Government, and propose to hand over sufficient of their land grant to cover the amount due the province.

Hamilton has purchased a Pitts roller for \$3,300, said to be no better than one sold to Galt for \$2,700. The transaction threatens to prevent the passing of the permanent roadways by-law for the expenditure of \$150,000.

The Grand Trunk authorities have decided that all advertisements of patent medicines and other notices must be cleared out of the railway stations and only railway announcements and time tables must adorn the walls.

In view of the war between Spain and the United States, and the possibility of interruption to shipping at United States ports, the Quebec Board of Trade have issued a circular to the shipping world explaining the advantages of Quebec harbor.

About forty United States families have arrived in Toronto during the last few days in consequence of the outbreak of war. Most of them are from the Eastern States, and several are from Boston. They expect to

reside in Toronto or other parts of Ontario during the war.

C. W. Graves, Canadian agent of the Wis. Central Railway, has been appointed traveling freight and passenger agent of the Great Northern Railway, with headquarters at Toronto, a position formerly held by H. McMicken, now of the London, England, office of the Great Northern.

## GREAT BRITAIN.

The mail steamer *Ireland*, said to have been purchased by the United States, has been forbidden to sail from Kingstown, Ireland.

Germany threatens to retaliate because of Great Britain's denunciation, at Canada's request, of the Anglo-German treaty.

Mr. Joseph Chamberlain announced that the Alaskan boundary dispute would be referred to arbitration. He added that in the meantime a *modus vivendi* may be agreed upon.

The London Times says:—"Our sympathies, on the main question, are with the United States, as they are held to be in the right. But, on the matter of form, we are not so clear or unanimous."

The suspension of the firm of Sherwood, Thompson & Company, cotton brokers, of Liverpool, is announced. This firm operated throughout the Southern States under the firm name of John Sherwood & Company.

## UNITED STATES.

Fifty thousand Californians have already volunteered for service.

Forty thousand men have already volunteered in Massachusetts.

The Standard National Bank at 23rd and Madison avenue, New York, has closed its doors.

Two murderers, Fred Rockwell and Patrick Banya were hanged at Ridgeway, Pa., on Tuesday.

Moslem Temple, Mystic Shrine, of Detroit has abandoned its proposed visit to Ramesses Temple of Toronto, owing to the war.

A United States Government official has made arrangements to purchase 5,000 horses in Canada for war purposes if needed.

Chicago Knights of Pythias have organized one thousand strong to go to the front. Sixteen hundred policemen also volunteered in that city.

The House of Representatives has proposed a bill permitting the purchase of supplies for the army in the open market instead of by contract.

Governor Hastings, of Pennsylvania, will issue a Colonel's commission to John Wanamaker, who has offered to equip a regiment at his own expense.

The application of Rev. Morgan Wood of Toronto, formerly of Detroit, for chaplaincy in the State troops, is on file with Adjutant-General Irsch, of Michigan.

Orders have been issued closing Portland harbor from 8 p.m. to 4 p.m. Patrol boats will also be on duty outside during the day to guide vessels safely into the harbor.

The vessels St. Louis and St. Paul and Harvard, lately New York, have been fitted with armour protection over all their exposed machinery, and have already received good batteries.

Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn, of United States War Department, has issued a statement that only a limited number of newspaper representatives will be allowed to accompany the army.

Philadelphia was gayly decorated with flags on Saturday, and it was noticeable that in a number of instances the British flag found a place in the display while here and there was the flag of Cuba.

The city almshouse, located three miles west of Oswego, N.Y., and containing 33 male and 19 female inmates, was gutted by fire on Tuesday. The loss is estimated at \$25,000; insured for one half. No one was injured.

The cruiser *Charlestown* is in bad shape at San Francisco. Her condensing tubes were injured by the recent earthquake, and it will be necessary to secure new ones from the east before she will be ready for service.

The American line steamer *New York*, which has been chartered by the United States Government, arrived at New York Sunday morning. As soon as she was moored all hands were paid off. The crew immediately resigned for a period of twelve months at the current mercantile marine rates of wages. Out of the crew of 420 on the *St. Louis* only seven refused to sign.

All the Bessemer pig iron producers of the Central West have agreed to bank their furnaces for thirty days out of the three months of May, June, and July. A \$25,000 assurance has been given by every interest, about 18 in all.

## GENERAL.

Ecuador is raising a fund to aid Spain in the present war.

Out of 34 storms which reached the French shores in 1896, all but 3 were foretold by the central meteorological office.

Many Greeks are presenting themselves at the United States Consulate at Athens, seeking enlistment in the United States forces.

Baron Ito, the Japanese Minister of Commerce, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. Count Kaneko will succeed him.

The Vienna *Fremdenblatt* says the torpedo manufactory at Fiume declined to supply Spain because it had a pressing order from Japan.

A Hong Kong cable says the steamer *Esmeralda*, chartered by the banking companies, has gone to Manila to bring away the specie there, as trouble is apprehended.

The French society for the assistance of wounded soldiers has donated \$10,000 and has opened a subscription for the purpose of aiding the American and Spanish Red Cross Societies.

Spain according to a despatch from Rome to a London news agency, has bought the Italian Navigation Company's steamers, *Siric*, *Orione*, and *Regina Margherita*, for conversion into auxiliary cruisers.

The latest advices from Porto Rico are that the excitement there is increasing, and the prices of food are advancing. Steps are being taken to prevent the flight of refugees. There is talk of a revolution at Mayaguez.

The Persian Consul-General at Antwerp, a big diamond merchant, states that the business in his line, with the United States has been entirely suspended. A great number of cutters have thus been thrown out of work.

The sailing steamer *Ranger* arrived on Wednesday, at St. John's, Nfld., with 6,000 seals. Her crew had to be kept at the pumps for three days to keep the ship afloat in the storm. The season's total catch will be about 300,000 seals.

It is announced that the Argentine Republic will publish a decree of neutrality during the war between Spain and the United States, but it appears certain that the Government will reserve absolute liberty of action in regard to coal.

The Imparcial of Madrid says:—"All the world now knows that America tried to bluff Spain by war threats which she is unable to fulfil. America, on being called, shows a wretchedly weak hand. Its real strength is exactly known—five ironclads, two belted cruisers, three unbelted, the fastest and most powerful cruisers, and twelve other cruisers. All the rest are theatrical suppers."

## EUROPEAN WAR MAY RESULT.

Some British Naval Officers of High Rank Express This Opinion.

A correspondent at Gibraltar, telegraphs the following: During the last few days I have had many opportunities of obtaining the views of several naval officers upon the present crisis, and in these days naval officers of high position are often placed in situations where immediate decisions of vital importance have to be taken, so finally they become better judges than trained diplomats. Their opinions may be summarized as follows:—

Whatever may be their ideas on the technical procedure of the United States, on general principles they side with America as a sister nation. The opinion of one of the most able is that war could have been avoided and the same results obtained had America given more time, and that this matter is going to be more troublesome than the United States imagined, the Spaniards having the fixed intention of drawing it out, knowing that every day is enormously damaging the United States.

## SPAIN VICTORIOUS AT FIRST.

Another officer, of almost equal importance said, but not to me, that he thought the Spanish would be victorious in the first one or two encounters. When asked the reason, he said:—"Because they are excellent sailors, and understand the handling of their ships perfectly."

But more often than any other have I heard the opinion that this is only the beginning of great international complications which England has foreseen for some time past, and for which her navy is so thoroughly prepared. Then England's lot must necessarily be with the United States and when the time comes she will be found tuned up to the concert pitch. The word of Lord Wolseley, talking of the militia being called out in case of need for foreign service, is much talked of as an indication.

## INCENSED AGAINST GERMANY.

While the report published Saturday is probably without foundation, that the German fleet is going to Manila with orders to prevent the blockade of Manila it has aroused naval sentiment still more, and there is not a naval officer here who would not like a good lick at them. They see again in Germany's present attitude the hatred of England. They consider that the greatest link to-day of America and Great Britain is the Kaiser's bitter hatred of both nations.

The Channel squadron in all its glory—six first-class battleships and eight cruisers—glided into anchorage here Saturday afternoon. It was a splendid sight. The ships arrived in double line, and the crews witnessed the mathematical precision of their movements.

The steamer *San Ignacio* de Loyola has arrived here from Cadiz, having aboard crews which took the Hamburg-American line steamers *Columbia* and *Normannia*, purchased by Spain. They were transferred to the ship *Bayer*, bound for Bremen.

The Destructeur returned to Algeciras Saturday evening, but was out again at five o'clock this morning, keeping up the same sharp patrol work as heretofore. This is probably on account of the expected visit here of a merchantman bound to the United States.

## GERMANY'S INTERESTS.

That Country May Prohibit the Bombardment of Manila.

A despatch from Madrid says:—A great impression has been produced here by a rumour that the German Government has issued a note declaring that it will not oppose the landing of troops in the Philippines, but will not permit a bombardment, owing to the important German mercantile interests in all the towns of the islands. Germany's omission to declare neutrality is held to give color to this rumour.

## BRICK HOUSES MOST DURABLE.

It is a mistake to suppose that stone houses are the most durable. A well-constructed brick house will outlast one built of granite.

## FIFTY MILLIONS SPENT.

CONGRESS MUST APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY FOR WARSHIPS.

Three New Battleships—General Lee says the Batteries at Matanzas Were Antiquated and Not Very Formidable.

A despatch from Washington, says:—The Navy Department has completely ceased its purchase of ships for conversion into war vessels, owing to the exhaustion of the \$50,000,000 war fund. It is confidently expected that Congress will come to the relief, as the department is still in need of auxiliary vessels. The news of the safe arrival at Liverpool of the big American sailing ship *Shenandoah* was gladly received at the department.

## DOCK FOR BIG SHIPS.

The Port Royal dry-dock, according to official information will now be accessible to American warships, even the biggest of the fleet, should they meet with accident during the campaign. The report from the constructor in charge shows that the entrance to the dock is now dredged and clear. The work of dredging the basin is still in progress. The Board of Bureau Chiefs met to-day to begin the consideration of the plans for three new battleships authorized by the Naval Appropriation bill, and progressed so far that circulars will be sent out tomorrow inviting bids from the shipbuilders. The vessels will be in the main very similar to the battleship *Illinois*, now building at Newport News. They will be of about 12,500 displacement, 75 feet beam, 23-2 feet depth, 16 knots speed, will be covered with heavy armour, and armed with 13 and 6-inch guns, in addition to numerous secondary batteries.

## MATANZAS BATTERIES POOR.

General Fitzhugh Lee arrived here late on Thursday after a ten days' visit to his family in Virginia. The general shared the keen public interest in the shelling of Matanzas. He had visited that city frequently, and was familiar with the lay of the land and the defences. He said the batteries were antiquated, and were not likely to offer any formidable resistance. General Lee will call at the State Department tomorrow morning. Being still an official, he asked to be excused from discussing the war situation, and was very reticent concerning his prospective appointment as major-general.

The French Embassy has received a cable despatch from the Foreign Office at Paris announcing that a decree of neutrality between the United States and Spain has been issued, and that a detailed copy will be forwarded by mail.

## IN LIEN OF PENSION.

A Bill to be Introduced in the United States Congress This Week.

A bill providing for insuring the lives of soldiers and sailors by the Government will be introduced in the United States Congress early this week. It is the intention of its promoters to push it energetically. This measure provides a department of insurance, and a policy is to be issued to each soldier when he enlists. This policy will provide that a certain amount, not yet determined upon, shall be paid to the beneficiaries named in the policy. It will also provide amounts to be paid in cases where injury has been received, according to the nature of the injury. No premiums are to be paid on these policies, which are to be issued in lieu of any possible claim the insured may have in the future for pensions. It is believed by promoters of the bill that the insurance plan will prove much more satisfactory to the soldiers, and sailors, and to the Government, than the pension plan, and that it will greatly increase the number of willing volunteers in case the Government should need the

## NO LACK OF COAL.

Spanish Embassy Denies That Ships are Forced to Stay at Cape Verde.

A despatch from London says:—The bombardment of the Matanzas fortifications is regarded here as a preliminary to the landing of American troops and making Matanzas the base of American operations in Cuba. It is also supposed that Rear-Admiral Sampson desired to judge of the quality of the Spanish gunners, and to give his men something to do to relieve the weariness. The mystery regarding the movements of the Spanish men-of-war is still unexplained. The secretaries at the Spanish Embassy, interviewed on the subject, ridicule the statement that the squadron at Cape Verde is delayed by lack of coal; first, because for a long time the Spanish vessels have been particularly well fitted out, not only with coal but with food and all kinds of warlike material; and second, because St. Vincent could supply any required quantity of coal.

## SUICIDED WITH A STRAP.

A Farmer Near Brockville Hangs Himself While Despondent.

John Gillerlaine, a farmer of Elizabethtown, near Brockville, was found on Wednesday evening by his son hanging from the rafters of the haymow, cold in death. He had been despondent for some time, and committed suicide with a strap. An inquest was held this afternoon, and a verdict rendered in accordance with the facts. Gillerlaine was 57 years old, and leaves a widow and family.

## A NEW MILITARY DEPOT.

BRITAIN TAKING EVERY PRECAUTION IN VIEW OF HOSTILITIES.

Imposing Naval Strength in Jamaica Waters—Best Way to Serve British Interests is to Aid the United States.

A despatch from Kingston, Jamaica, says:—The British war authorities are converting Jamaica into a big military and naval depot. Large reinforcements of troops from Halifax, Bermuda, Barbadoes, and St. Lucia have been sent to the island and two additional battleships and three cruisers have been ordered to augment the already imposing naval strength. Much conjecture has been indulged in concerning the purpose of this movement. It has been supposed that it had something to do with the trans-isthmian canal question; but now it is clear that the Imperial authorities have taken action in view of the Spanish-American war that to their knowledge had been imminent before it broke out. The trend of official and military opinion is that the War Office, in placing troops on the island, is holding them in readiness to embark for Cuba if needed. There is no question of hostility to the United States. Quite the contrary is believed to be the case. But English interests

## MUST BE PROTECTED

and the best apparent way of securing this, it is conjectured here, will be to aid the United States in the creation of a stable Government in the island that will suit all parties concerned. The accomplishment of this will be no easy task. The Spaniards will not yield to it except under the most absolute stress of armed force. On the other hand, it is almost as probable that the Cuban insurgents under arms will hold out all they are able to for an unconditional recognition of themselves as the masters of the island so soon as the Spanish evacuation is accomplished. In these circumstances the United States may have a stiff piece of work in hand. To thrash the naval forces of Spain may prove a comparatively easy task. That effected, to drive her military forces out of Cuba would be still easier. But what then? What about the insurgents who hold the island, if they demand their own recognition as the sovereign power, as the price of their surrender? This, it is thought, is just where England contemplates joining forces with the United States, and having a hand in the method of government of

## THE NEW CUBA.

It is questionable if American troops, any more than the Spanish, could handle the Cubans. The American troops are unaccustomed to the work of invasion in mountainous tropical countries. They might be no better off than the Spanish troops when contending against Cubans, especially if the latter were aided by West Indian filibusterers. On the other hand the English troops are well versed in such warfare, having been trained in India and Africa. If therefore, it comes to the saving of Cuba from herself, it is argued here, the United States would be only too glad to have the friendly aid of England. Another reason for England's prompt and early step at preparedness for active intervention is said to be this: While the indications point to an easy triumph of America over Spain, it is of course a bare possibility that such might not be the case. England's sympathies are so strongly enlisted that in such an eventuality she proposes to be on hand to render prompt and effective aid to the champion of humanity.

## WOLSELEY'S OPINION.

Believes the U. S. Cause Just and That the Americans Will Win.

A prominent Englishman who believes in the justice of America's cause and who is also of the opinion that the United States will certainly have a walkover, is Lord Wolseley, the commander-in-chief of the British forces. During a dinner party conversation the other day, Lord Wolseley drew a parallel between Cuba and Crete, saying:—"While England interfered in Crete on moral grounds, the United States has both moral and material justification for intervention in Cuba. I believe the quality of the American army and navy is so much superior to Spain's that the Americans will have no difficulty in defeating Spain's ships and land forces, which are their equals or superiors on paper only."

## AUSTRIA'S EMPEROR.

\$100,000 Sent to Spain For War Purpose, by Francis Joseph.

The Vienna correspondent of the London Morning Post says:—"Emperor Francis Joseph privately contributed £20,000 to the national naval subscription in Spain, and has further shown his sympathy by recruiting a number of Austro-Hungarian officers to join the Spanish flag. The Archduke Eugene has gone to Madrid to stay with the Queen Regent during this critical period. Austria maintains the strictest neutrality, but I am informed from the best source that in the event of a revolution in Madrid the Austrian forces will be at the disposal of the Queen Regent. The Emperor is determined that her Majesty shall have the benefit of his fullest protection."