BATTLE OF MANILA.

Fight Described by Men Who Watched It From the American Ships.

Spaniards Fought Bravely but Could Not Repel the Well Managed Attack.

Hongkong papers received by the Empresse of Japan contain detailed accounts of the defeat of the Spanish fleet at Manila, written by the correspondents who watched the fight from the decks of the American ships.

Referring to the victory achieved by the United States squadron, the China Mail remarks that it was due in a great measure to the splendid marksmanship of the American gunners, it was more particularly by the tact and strategy displayed by Commodore Dewey, who was in command of the fleet. When the ships entered the channel leading to the bay, several shots were fired at them from the batteries at the entrance, but none seemed to take effect. It was late at night when the whole squadron passed safely into the bay of Manila. As the morning sun rose over the city, the Americans were cruising round in front of it. The Manila batteries opened a fusillade on them at a range of about five miles, and the Boston opened fire in return. Commodore Dewey at once gave the order to "cease firing," and thereafter the erratic firing of the town batteries proceeded without interruption. There were no traces of the Spanish fleet at that time, and there appeared to be only a number of British mercantile vessels thereabouts. Proceeding in line ahead to the naval station at Cavite, the United States squadron came across the Spanish vessels lying in from four to five fathoms of water. They were drawn up in line, the wooden hulk Cactilla being moored fore and aft. That was the strongest possible position they could occupy, for they were there supported by the Cavite forts, and the shallow water would not permit the Americans to approach too closely.

The Spanish ships and the forts opened fire on the United States fleet at a range of about six thousand yards, but the shells fell far out of range. Undeterred by the Spanish fusillade, the United States squadron steamed slowly ahead, and when the range had been lessened by about 1,000 yards the flagship Olympia opened fire, and as the Baltimore and the other ships filed past they maintained a steady fire from their six-inch and eight-inch guns. The American ships manoeuvred in line, and sent broadside after broadside into the Spanish fleet, and at about half past seven o'clock, the fire from the Spaniards having been considerably quietened, the order was hoisted to "stop firing." From about half past nine the previous evening till then, the men had been on duty at the guns with no refreshment except a cup of coffee. After a well-earned spell of three hours and a half, the Americans again manned their guns, and renewed the attack on the Spanish ships, but it was not to be for long, for in about an hour and a half after the firing had commenced, the white fig was seen flying at Cavite. The lighter draught vessels and pinnaces of the American fleet steamed into Cavite harbor after the surrender, and the wounded men who were left behind in the ships and others picked up out of the water were conveyed to hospitals at Cavite and also to Manila city. The Spaniards had taken away most of their dead, and buried some of them, but next day while parties were searching around the naval arsenal at Cavite their attention was drawn by a dreadful stench to a large heap of putrifying bodies, some of which had been horribly mangled by the American shells.

The Spanish Admiral, Patriocio Montojo y Pasaron, who was very slightly wounded in the action, with his two sons, E. Montonjo y Martinez de Valdivielso and P. Montojo y Martinez de Valdivielso, who acted as his aides, fled to the city of Manila.

Notwithstanding the bad gunnery of the Spaniards, there must have been a good many shots in the vigorous cannonade which got pretty near their mark. The aim of the Spaniards' smaller guns was more within range than the guns of heavier calibre. The flagship Olympia was pierced by numerous 7-pound projectiles. Had the firing of the big guns been as accurate, the United States ships, which are not armored vessels, would have fared rather badly. The wardroom of the Olympia was turned into the sick bay, and the chaplain and some others who were on duty there had narrow escapes. They were watching the progress of the fight through a large porthole, when a 7-pound shell, fired at 3,000 yards' range, exploded against the side of the ship. The chaplain received a few scratches. At a range of 2,000 yards this shell would have exploded in the wardroom and done tremendous damage.

Additional particulars were furnished the China Mail by Colonel George Alvin Loud of the governor's staff, State of Michigan, who was on a pleasure trip on the Hugh McCulloch, and who elected to go to Manila to see the fight. He had charge of the powder magazine of the ship, and had a good coign of vantage to witness the engagement. He said that when the fleet left Bolinao the Concord and Boston were sent ahead to reconnoitre in Subic Bay, where it was rumored the Spanish fleet had gone on the previous Monday. The Baltimore was afterwards sent on in front to Subic. All the fleet assembled together at Subic, and at six o'clock the fleet left direct for Manila. The vessels steamed slowly forward to Corregidor Island, dividing the entrance to Manila harbor into two channels. There was a bright moon, but the ships had nearly all passed the forts there without being discovered. No lights were permitted on any of the ships, with the exception of a stern light, to enable the fleet to keep in line. The dull gray color of the ships evidently very effectively concealed them from view. There was perfect stillness on each ship of the fleet; the men were at quarters, and everthing in perfect readiness, as they steamed slowly through the wide channel unnoticed, when a rattling fire from the shore batteries told that the fleet had been sighted. The shots dropped in the vicinity of the Boston and McCulloch. The McCulloch answered with three shots and the Boston also fired several shots. None of the projectiles damaged any of the vessels, and after the little sally of the Boston and McCulloch no further attention was paid to the fire from the forts. The fleet slowly advanced up the bay to Manila, and arrived opposite the city at five o'clock when day was breaking.

It was evident that the Spaniards were unaware of the presence of the United States fleet in the bay, for the cable communication from Marivales on the Luzon shore with the naval station at Cavite had been cut up by the rebels. The Spanish vessel which were lying in line were the Reina Cristina, Castilla, Don Antonio de Ulloa, Don Juan de Austria, Velasco, Isla de Cuba and Isla de Luzon, with a number of small gunboats, and Mr. Loud states that when they were seen the American ships advanced upon them till within 4,000 yards. The Olympia fired the first broadside, and the other ships followed the flagship at four or five ships' lengths, and fired broadsides into the Spanish fleet. Commodore Dewey manoeuvred his fleet in splendid style, steaming his ships slowly across the Spanish line of fire, the guns on each occasion belching forth death and destruction. The American fleet by this manoeuvre were able to maintain a continuous rain of shell on the Spaniards. The cannonade of the Spaniards from the shore and the ships was, however, vigorous. There was no breeze blowing, the smoke from the guns concealed the ships, and it was then difficult to tell how the fight was going.

An incident, says the China Mail, happened during this series of manoeuvres of the American fleet which shows undomitable pluck and heroism on the part of the Spanish Admiral Patricio Montojo y Pasaron. The flagship Reina Cristina having got up steam she advanced out of line to attack the United States flagship Olypmia. On the movement being observed, all the guns of the American fleet were signalled to concentrate upon the Spanish flagship, and this signal was obeyed with telling effect before the Reina Cristina had reached anywhere near the Olympia. The Spanish flagship was forced to retire, and as she did so she gave the Olympia a grand opportunity for a raking shot. The Olympia sent a huge eight-inch shell through the stern of the Reina Cristina, raking her the entire length, exploding her boiler. As she drifted helplessly away she was discovered to be on fire. This single shell killed the captain and sixty other men, and altogether this vessel had 140 men killed and as many wounded. The Spanish admiral then transferred his flag to the Castilla, and she was afterwards sunk with a regular storm of shot.

Two torpedo launches which laid in wait off Cavite made a run against the Olympia, but when they got within 800 yards of the flagship the second batteries sent in a perfect hail of 6-pound shells, smashing up the leading launch and killing all on board, while the second launch was driven back on the beach with 12 shot holes through her.

After the American ships had retired from the action ringing cheers were raised from each of the ships.

SLAUGHTER IN PHILIPPINES.

Insurgents and Spanish Troops in Hand to Hand Conflict Near Manila.

Manila, May 31.—Via Hongkong, June 7.—The Spanish outposts have been driven in all along the line simultaneously by the insurgents, with great slaughter. It is said that over a thousand have been killed. There have been fierce hand to hand fighting for seventy hours, despite the typhoon which is raging. Violent winds and torrents of rain render the rifles of the Spanish troops unavailing, and the natives easily win at every step with their slashing knives.

To-day the insurgents held Malabon, Tanduc and Bacoor. They are now attacking Santa Mes and Molate, suburbs of the city, which is completely encircled for a distance of seven miles. A native regiment under Col. Aguinaldo, cousin of the insurgent leader, yesterday joined the insurgents.

Three rockets dropped into the city today. They are supposed to have been signals for the natives. The governor has issued a dispairing proclamation, begging the insurgents to come to terms, and in the meanwhile he is arranging to remove all the Spanish population inside of the old walled city. He is filling moats, testing drawbridges and placing strong guards in the principal streets and artillery along the walls. All the other troops are camping in the suburbs. The weather is terrific.

Later.—It now appears that the rockets yesterday were not signals to the natives, but a warning from the German consulate of the approach of a typhoon, issued for the benefit of ships in the harbor. I visited Cavite without the Spaniards knowing it and found 197 wounded and 56 prisoners. Among the latter are six Spanish officers; the others are natives. All were well treated. Chief Aguinaldo, in the course of an interview, said the insurgents were eager to rush upon Manila forthwith, but Admiral Dewey refused to allow "hordes of passionate semi-savages to rush to storm a civilized metropolis."

Admiral Dewey intends to wait the arrival of the American troops. In the meantime, the insurgents have been forbidden to cross the Malote river, seven miles south of Manila. Otherwise the Petrel will be stationed there to bombard them.

Hongkong, June 7.—The correspondent of the Associated Press at Manila, under date of June 2, says: "I have traversed the whole region where the fighting has been during the last three days, in spite of the prohibition. I found the insurgents strongly posted at Colooon, eight miles north of Manila, the same distance south. To the east I found nothing in the way of the insurgent entrenchments. Spaniards still hold the whole bay below the town of Manila. The two sections of the insurgents' forces signal their movements with fire balloons. To the northward the uprising is general and the Spaniards are few. The railway has been cut in several places and the English overseers have been warned off. To the southward there has been fierce fighting at the Zapote river, between Bacoos and Laspinas. The biggest battle of the present campaign was fought last Thursday, the 31st inst. The insurgents attacked in the left branch of the Zapote. They waded across amid a typhoon, stormed the banks along several miles and carried the Spanish trenches. Yesterday (June 1st) they tried the right branch of the Zapote, but failed. The Spaniards employed artillery all day, but no casualties are reported. To-day there have only been ineffective skirmishes. The country is densely wooded and swampy. Both parties shoot aimlessly. I got in the middle of the shooting, but nobody knew what they were shooting at. Both sides were "duffers." The insurgents, however, are excellent in a melee. The Spaniards say they were victorious yesterday, but they cannot follow up the victory and annihilate the rebels, because of the American warships at Cavite. Moreover, they say it is necessary that they save energies for the American troops. Meanwhile, the vicinity of Manila is a impenetrable network of ambuscades."

A TRIAL TRIP.

New Steel Steamer Built for the C.P.N. Company Makes Her Initial Run.

A gay party went out on the trial trip of the new C.P.N. steamer Beaver yesterday afternoon, there being in all upwards of seventy-five ladies and gentlemen, and all were greatly pleased with the vessel's performance. Commodore Irving and Capt. Tackaberry were at the wheel and if the excursion had been public it would have been a very popular event. Out to Albert Head, from there to William Head, then to Esquimalt, around the warships and back to port, was the route chosen. The steamer, though not making 17 knots an hour, the speed that has been calculated on, came so close to it that the test was very satisfactory. The easy way in which she can be handled is cause for congratulation to the builders, the Albion Iron Works. One or two revolutions of the big stern wheel and the vessel is going at a speed greater than that of the average craft. The Beaver, which bears the name of the pioneer steamer in British Columbia waters, is handsomely built and is equipped with all modern contrivances likely to be of service. She is worthy of more than passing notice inasmuch as she is the first steel vessel built in British Columbia. Both her owners and builders have every reason to feel proud of her for in her construction as also in appearance she being a model river steamer.

SPAIN'S COAL RESOURCES.

The question of coal even in its own country is a very serious one to Spain. While Basque and several of its provinces on the Bay of Biscay have such deposits, they are almost inaccessible from the sea coast, and the cost of transportation is such that foreign coal is used almost exclusively in all of the seapart towns. Fully 95 per cent. comes from Cardiff in Wales, the bulk of it being sent in British steamships which are bound for the cities on the Mediterranean and Suez Canal. While a small tonnage comes from Belgium and France the quantity is insignificant. The present strike among the miners of the Cardiff regions has developed to such proportions as seriously to curtail the output. This has already raised the price of Welsh coal consederably, and even were it not a contraband article since the declaration of war, the price delivered at West Indian points would be so high as to prohibit its importation. Cut off the main source of fuel supply the Spain, it is conceded by those in the best position to know, would be at the mercy of the United States or any other hostile country. England supplying the bulk of coal for Spanish use would prevent any other country from furnishing it, since such a step would cut off her revenue in addition to violating the articles of international agreement relative to contraband articles. The predicament in which plain is placed will thus be perceived, and the end of the present hostilities may be quickly decided by a far more peaceful agency than force of arms.—The Independent.

ORIENTAL PLAGUES.

A Few Statistics Showing the Ravages of Disease in the Far East.

A consular report from Amoy, China, states that the pest has made its appearance at that port, and that many deaths are daily reported.

There were 127 cases of and 64 deaths from the bubonic plague in Taihoku prefecture, Formosa, 34 cases and 28 deaths in Shiachiku prefecture, 538 cases and 445 deaths in Taichu prefecture, 63 cases and 38 deaths, and 201 cases and 108 deaths in Kago prefecture, from the beginning of the year to May 20th, the rate of mortality being equal to about 70 per cent. of the number of patients.

At the local jail of Tochigi Prefecture, consumption seems to have become a chronic disease, 42 prisoners now suffering from it. The fact of the presence of the disease has never been reported by the medical officers in attendance at the prison, and it was left for Dr. Murimoto, who has recently been engaged by the Prefectural hospital as its chief to do so. It is now stated that the prefectural office intends to present a bill to the diet demanding a special allowance for the erection of additional premises for the reception of prisoners suffering from the complaint.—Japan Times.

An order for a new battleship of 15,000 tons displacement will probably be placed with a certain shipbuilding company in England at an early date by the Japanese government.

AMERICA IN ASIA.

(The Speaker.)

If the Philippines are to be administered, as the Indian Bureau and the Freedman's Bureau used to be, by office seekers from the States, their future is full of trouble for the Union. We believe the American nation can do most things that it has a mind to. But if it means to govern the Philippines successfully, it must give them a permanent civil service, a permanent colonial army, and an administration free from the scandals which have made its dealings with the Indians a lasting reproach. It may very probably find, even so, that a new set of difficulties awaits it: that the possession of the Philippines gives a dangerous stimulus to the power of the capitalist and the trusts; that it upsets the political balance of the Union; that it diverts capital from useful employment at home to speculative investment abroad; and that it involves the republic in those European complications from which her founder—though the advice is rather inappropriate now—advised her above all things to keep aloof. But, on the other hand, it may be mentioned that though America has kept out of complications in Europe, she was on the way to become an Eastern power some forty years ago. Boston and Salem had a large share in the trade with China; and an American expedition took a prominent part in the opening up of Japan. The war of secession, the Suez Canal, and the substitution of iron steamers for wooden clippers interrupted these tendencies. We now see them resumed in the modern form, and with that territorial base which modern needs make indispensable. That the islands should pass into the hands of a power that can develop them is unquestionably a gain to the world. And it is probable that America is the only power whose acquisition to them need not participate the great European war.

A BELLIGERENT GERMAN.

He Hoped for Calamity to the United States, but Brought it Upon His Own Ship.

Philadelphia, June 8.—Capt. A. Aarhus of the German steamer Schleswig, which arrived here to-day from Kingston, Jamaica, was given a hearing this afternoon before the collector of this port, for violation of the marine laws in attempting to enter this port without first having obtained clearance papers from the customs officer at Kingston. After hearing his case Collector Thoms decided that the captain should make a deposit of $5,000 for his liability pending final action. Capt. Aarhus refused to deposit this sum and the case was referred to Washington for final action. Meanwhile the Schleswig is in the custody of the customs authorities.

According to a despatch from Kingston, dated May 29th, Capt. Aarhus openly expressed anti-American views while in that port, saying he hoped every American ship would be blown up and that the Harvard would be captured by the Spanish. He is also credited with threatening to lie outside the port of Kingston and signal to the Spaniards the whereabouts of the Harvard, which was then at Kingston. When the agents of the Schleswig applied to Consul Dent for a bill of health the consular office had been closed for the night and the Schleswig sailed early the next morning without the necessary papers. This offence is punishable by a fine of $5,000.

Prince Ferdinand of Bulgaria is little renowned for anything save his huge collection of dressing gowns. He has a perfect mania for the kind of garment, and has paid as much as 100 guineas for an embroidered robe made up for him in Paris.

NEWS OF VANCOUVER.

Speculation as to the Liberals' Action in Control of the Opposition Convention.

No Change in Salmon Regulations—Protection of Animals—A California Poet.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Vancouver, June 8.—The delegates to the opposition convention were chosen yesterday. Most of them are Liberals and they can, if they will, choose three or the whole four candidates from their party which course would not be palatable to the Conservative supporters of the opposition in Vancouver. It seems, however, likely, that they will in any case, choose Mr. Cotton from motives of policy, and they may, for the same reason, select for him one Conservative or at least independent colleague out of the four. Mr. Joseph Martin seems certain to be on the opposition ticket, and if there are to be three Liberal names upon it, a choice among Messrs. Macpherson, Baxter and Macdonnell will furnish two of the three. If on the other hand the delegates determine to place two Conservative names on the ticket there will be a keen contest for the second place between Messrs. Baxter, Macdonnell and Macpherson, amongst the Liberals then to be nominated, unless one or two of the three decide to withdraw. Mr. Baxter, who is a young schoolmaster of considerable power of speech, has several strong advocates on the delegation, but as the labor element is also there well represented, Mr. Macpherson's claims should have sturdy advocates too. The chances are that several ballots will be taken ere a final choice is made. Mr. Cotton was away up country during the choosing of the delegates, and the men of the "Province," Messrs. Nichol and Coltart, were very active in support of the Martin section of the party. It may be mentioned that the composition of the opposition delegation was not known until late last night. They were the choice of fairly large meetings, at which, however, the Conservative members of the party were in some cases, through their own apathy, not very well represented.

Mr. Emmerson Brooks, the California poet, gave a recital in the Homer Street Methodist church on Tuesday evening. The chair was taken by the Hon. Edwin Dudley, United States consular agent, who strongly urged the advisability of an Anglo-American alliance. The suggestion was of course enthusiastically received.

The executive council of the local branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is busily organising and collecting subscriptions. The society has already through the police successfully prosecuted one case of cruelty.

WESTMINSTER NOTES.

The Dominion government has notified its inspector of fisheries in this city, Mr. McNab, that in consequence of the lateness of the season there will be no change in the salmon fishery regulations this year. Meanwhile the fishermen of New Westminster have held meetings, suggesting numerous changes. The representations of the canners would seem to have prevailed.

A boy named Robert Moulday, aged 10 years, has been drowned in one of the Pitt Meadow sloughs, near which his parents resided. Coroner Pittendrigh is holding an inquest.

Complaint has been made to the city council of New Westminster in regard to the alleged promiscuous ringing of the bells of Holy Trinity cathedral and the city solicitor is being consulted in the matter.

SPAIN'S COLONY BLIGHT.

Policy of Government for Revenue Only Dragging Her Down.

(New York Commercial Advertiser)

The cardinal mistakes of Spain's colonial policy—a policy persisted in from the day of Cortez to this—are three.

1. She has governed her colonies entirely and frankly for her own advantage. She has always insted upon a tribute. She has so managed her fiscal arrangements that her colonies could deal only with her, and has conferred all profitable appointments in the colonies upon her own children. Result, the colonies have been bled, have become aware of it and have furiously resented the loss of economic strength and inability to use their revenue to their own advantage. This was the first charge brought against Spain by the South American colonies when they rebelled, and it is the first that the Cuban insurgents brought. Spain has never repudiated this charge nor this policy, and there is no prospect that she will ever abandon it while she has a foot of colonial soil under her heel. Her opinion, in fact, has been and is that it would be silly to abandon it, since she considers the colonies so many estates which are only valuable as the pay rent, or direct profit. The Spanish colonists hate this system of arbitrary taxation, as the French peasant of the revolution hate the tithes and seignorial dues of the noblesse, and in the long series of uprisings against the Spanish power they have taken as bloody a revenge as that of 1793.

2. The Spaniards from Spain are in all colonies a very offensive caste. They not only monopolize all power, all high offices and a great part of the revenues, but they deliberately create an impression in the minds of the colonists that they are despised. No race in close contact with its rulers can endure this condition of things, and the hatred of creoles, half-castes, and even of negroes or Indians, toward the old Spaniards is as bitter as that of the sansculottes of the revolution for their tyrants. More than anything this attitute has cost Spain her colonies, for it has hopelessly alienated the minds of the people. It is one cause of the invariable cruelty of local government; the colonists will rise against oppression and they must be put down by torture and death. That is Spain's only resource. Conciliation or any compromise with being of any inferior race would outrage the proud blood of the hidalgo —hijo de algo—"son of somebody."

3. There is some deeply-rooted religious difficulty. It does not appear to exist in Cuba, where all are Catholics, more or less sincere, but it was the prime cause of trouble in Spanish America, as it is in the Philippines. Spain's practice has always been to establish the Catholic church as the first institution on conquered soil and to leave a large measure of authority to the district clergy, who are controlled, or, at least, influenced, by orders received from the great congregation at Rome. The clergy, lenient in every point but one, have never tolerated the slightest evidence of what they consider a reversion to Paganism on the part of the subject race. When they see that, they persecute with all their own power and with the aid of the secular arm, which has always been at their disposal for such purposes. But the colonists in Spanish America and in the Philippines have believed in both Catholicism and the old superstitions at the same time, and this has caused perpectual friction, leading to the most savage hatred of the church. In Spanish America the real ultimate division of parties has always been between Clericals and Liberals, and in the Philippines during the recent rising the first objects of popular hatred were the curas and monks, whom the Malays put to death with horrible torture.

Spain's policy of governing for revenue only, by the church and the strong hand, has not only proved a complete failure, but has reacted upon her own institutions with complete disaster. From the beginning of her empire, every foot of foreign soil has had to be held by the sword. This has meant a perpetual drain of men and money from the mother country, which has exhausted her. It has meant that Spanish troops from the time of Alva down, have never been fed, clothed or paid regularly, and that in every case, they have been left to prey on the country in which they were quartered. In the Philippines soldiers have been reduced at times to becoming the servants of the townspeople, or even of half-castes and negroes, in order to live. Recent news from Cuba informs us that the Spanish soldiers are starving as usual there. At Manzanillo, where there were 40,000 troops, 800 men died in one week of neglect and want. The troops were quartered in the streets and slept under verandas and in doorways. They demanded food and shelter of the citizens, but when it was refused them they had no power to enforce their demands. They were ragged, hungry and utterly disinhearted, and they would have deserted to the insurgents in a body, but these would not receive them, fearing treachery. This is happening, in our own day, a few miles from our own coasts, and it is absolutely typical of Spanish policy during three centuries.

Conquer or die has been the fierce motto of Spain. She is a survival of the Middle Ages, just as Weyler to-day is an incarnation of the cold-blooded cruelty of Alva without the Iron Duke's strength or military genius. Weyler and what he represents are Spain's only weapon against her refractory children, and now the scourge has dropped from her impotent hand. She can no longer conquer, and it only remains for her to die.

U. S. SECRET SERVICE.

Perfect System for Watching People Who Are Foes of the Government.

New York, May 30.—A World special from Washington says: One of the most important branches of the government war service, about which for obvious reasons little or no information is to be obtained, is the bureau of the secret service. The ordinary capacity of the service has been doubled since the declaration of war against Spain, and to no branch of the government is entrusted such important and delicate undertakings. The number of men actually employed in securing information for the use of the government both in this country and abroad cannot be accurately stated, but there are enough of them to make up a full regiment of the most intelligent and highly trained servants of the nation. Their movements are naturally guarded with the utmost caution, but it can be stated that in addition to the ordinary functions of the service, such as the detection of counterfeiting, the agents of the secret service are at work at every place in the world where information is to be secured or persons who may injure the government are to be watched, in Havana, in Madrid, in fact, where it is not safe for an American to disclose his nationality or to give evidence of his patriotism.

It is through this mysterious source that the government gains much of the information which insures its success in the prosecution of the war against Spain, but which is generally announced as having come through other sources. The reports of operatives of the secret service are transmitted to the chief of the bureau through many and devious channels, and in a cipher more intricate and difficult than that employed by the most skilled of diplomatic agents.

Only one man in the whole country can really tell how many of the secret agents of the country are at work and the nature of their undertakings. He is John R. Wilkie, chief of the bureau. A quest for information elicits a skeptical smile from him and the emphatic assurance that the work of his department is the business of nobody except the officials that supervise it. About all the information Mr. Wilkie can be induced to impart is that the service is about as complete and satisfactory as could be desired. The ordinary offenders with which the service has to deal in times of peace are being looked after, and if any enterprising counterfeiter or moonshiner thinks the government has its hands too full of war business to look after him, he is mistaken, and will undoubtedly find it out.

The war with Spain has just about doubled the work of the secret service bureau. The war service has been made a legitimate part of the functions of the bureau. Its efforts to keep the government posted as to the movements of agents and spies of the enemies are of material assistance to the war and navy departments. Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn, of the war department, has been entrusted with the duty of imparting to Chief Wilkie all the tips that reach the war department and of receiving the report of the officers to Mr. Wilkie that may be of service to his department. But Mr. Wilkie himself directs the work and it is doubtful if the assistant secretary of war is any better acquainted with the details than any ordinary citizen.

The operations of the service's agents in promoting diplomatic, military and naval information that may be of value to the government covers a wide range of territory and there are no doubt dozens of trained experts work ing in Europe, Asia, South America and Cuba. The service performed embraces a wide range, from "spotting" the movements of Spanish ambassadors to following persons suspected of being in the employ of Spain. Every movement, for instance, of Senor Polo, the former minister to this country, has been most carefully noted since he left Washington a month ago and crossed the frontier into Canada, and an American agent will not be far away from him until he has crossed the boundary line that separates his own country from France. Every detail of his movements, the name of every person he consulted in Canada and those he will confer with in England and on the continent is or will be known to the chief of the service and to such officers as may be concerned.

In this country the greatest part of the work of the secret agents is in watching persons suspected of plotting against the United States. Probably 200 or 300 persons are under constant espionage and will be watched so long as their conduct justifies.

The most striking example of the efficiency of the service in connection with the war was furnished by the detection and arrest of Downing, a former American sailor employed by the Spanish minister to send information about the defenses and equipment of the coast defenses and our warships. Downing was arrested within two days from the date on which he entered the employ of Spain. Upon his person was found evidence that seemingly proved his guilt. He was arrested and committed suicide by hanging. Downing was watched from the moment he reached Montreal to confer with the Spanish minister, and a secret service officer was near him until he was arrested here.

Several women are employed to secure information in quarters where it would be impossible for a man to do so, and they have rendered excellent service, the most important feature of which has been their ability to conquer the weakness of their sex for gossip.

Chief Wilkie, who was a good newspaper reporter before he was made chief of the government sleuths a month ago, may write up some of the records of the service which will make interesting and romantic reading.

"Matanzas" is the West Indian equivalent of "dark and bloody ground." Literally, it means "slaughter," the name being derived from an Indian butchery which took place long ago on its site.

Farmer Dunk—What do ye think of Neighbor Pettibunker?

Farmer Hornbeak—Wa-al, he hides his light under a bushel when in my opinion a tea cup would be plenty big enough.—Judge.

THE OSBORNE LICENSE

Churches and Temperance Societies Send in Petitions for Its Cancellation.

License Commissioners Decide That the House Was Not a Disorderly One.

More than usual interest was taken in yesterday's proceedings of the board of license commissioners, on account of the opposition presented to the application for a transfer of the license for the Osborne House at the corner of Pandora and Blanchard street, from William Field to Michael Christian. The application was granted, but not until arguments for and against it had been stated.

Petitions against the application were received from the pastors and officers of the First Presbyterian, Metropolitan Methodist and Congregational churches, which are in the vicinity of the house, and Perserverance Lodge, I.O.G.T., the owners of Temperance hall. The petition asked for the refusal of the application and revocation of the license on the grounds that it was objectionable to have saloons in the vicinity of churches, being obnoxious to the members of the congregation and detrimental to the morals of the Sunday school pupils. Further they held that the house was a disorderly one, citing in proof the recent shooting affair which took place there, resulting in a man being sent to jail for seven years.

Rev. Dr. Campbell, of the First Presbyterian church, was unable to be present, but Rev. J. C. Speer, Rev. P. C. L. Harris and Dr. Lewis Hall appeared in support of the petitions. Mr. Moresby appeared for the applicant and the owner of the property and immediately objected to these portions of the petition objecting to the saloon on account of its proximity to churches, that point he contended having been settled when the license was first granted.

The commissioners decided in favor of Mr. Moresby's contention, holding that only the manner in which the house had been conducted since the license was granted, would be considered.

Rev. J. C. Speer addressed the court at some length, holding that the saloon was obnoxious to Christian people, and that it was not a necessity, there being several saloons in the vicinity. Under the former proprietor the house was run as orderly as a saloon could be, but since the management had changed, this had not been the case. The evidence in the recent trial was sufficient to show that the house was a disorderly one, but in addition he could testify to having heard unusual noises there at night and to the fact that disreputable looking men hung around the place. He was no longer able to send his daughter to the mail box, which is just at the saloon corner.

Dr. Lewis Hall endorsed what Rev. Mr. Speer had said and added that the saloon was a hinderance to the work of the juvenile branches of the I.O.G.T. and tended to depreciate the value of the Temperance hall property.

Rev. P. C. L. Harris followed Dr. Hall in support of the petition.

Mr. Moresby contended that the petitioners had not proved their case, having just made a statement of their side, in support of which they had not produced witnesses. As to the shooting there was nothing to connect Barratta, who did it, with the proprietor of the saloon, in fact the proprietor had done his best to bring the guilty parties to justice.

Chief Sheppard said the proprietor could not be held responsible for the shooting, and further testified that there had been no complaints about the house and that it was closed on Sundays, the law being strictly enforced in the latter respect.

After short consideration the Mayor announced that while the commissioners sympathized with the petitioners, recognizing that it was not desirable to have saloons in the vicinity of the churches, they could not close their eyes to the fact that the license had been granted three years ago, and that the owner of the building had been put to considerable expense in fitting up the hotel. The evidence produced was not sufficient to satisfy them that the house was a disorderly one and besides it would not be fair to cancel a license for the first offence. If any just complaints were made the court would deal with the license as the law directs.

A number of other applications for transfers were granted.

THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN CHINA.

The following is an extract from a letter to the London Times from an exceptionally well-informed correspondent in China: "In China itself it is not only possible but probable that before the day comes to give effect to some of the promises made to us there will be no responsible government to carry out that promise. Everywhere the conditions appear ripe for rebellion. The country is honeycombed with secret societies with anti-dynastic objects; piracy and highway robbery are rampant throughout many provinces; the government acknowledge itself helpless and powerless, unable to resist a force of even 500 foreign sailors, or to refuse and demand any foreign power may see fit to impose. Sooner or later the people will say, 'As it is evident the government can neither protect us nor maintain order, we must take steps to perform those elementary duties of the government ourselves.' And it looks as though that moment were rapidly approaching, for it is currently reported that many of the picked scholars of the empire—the most influential class in it—who are now assembled at Peking for the metropolitan (the highest) examinations have declined to enter the examination hall, saying, 'What is the use of obtaining a diplomat from a government which cannot even protect us? We had better go home at once and study some foreign language and learning, in the hope of obtaining employment from some western government which has established itself on Chinese soil, and which at least will be able to safeguard our interests and give us a permanent position which we cannot hope for from our own.' That is a dangerous spirit to go abroad, especially now, when only a spark is needed to start a general conflagration, and living is rendered daily a more serious question owing to the appreciation of copper consequent on the depreciation of silver, to droughts here and floods there, and to increased exactions in order to in some manner neutralize the drain on provincial resources caused by forced contributions toward the payment of interest on indemnity loans."

Batteries for coast defense purposes can be mounted in a newly designed turret which is similar to those used on monitors, and has machinery for turning the turret and operating the guns.

J. E. Macrae, of Dodwell, Carlill & Co., and Mrs. Macrae, were passengers from Tacoma yesterday.