UNCLE SAM'S INVINCIBLE ARMY.

Decadent Spain Is Woefully Overmatched In the Present War.

OUR MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT.

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WHAT chance does Spain stand against the United States in the present war? That is the all absorbing topic at the present time. If the opinion of those whose views are entitled to respect by reason of training and experience be taken as a criterion, the answer may be given in two words, "Absolutely none."

The history of the Spanish government for nearly two centuries has been one of what might be called "disastrous decadence." One by one her numerous colonial possessions have been swept away until now, omitting Cuba, which is as good as gone, practically nothing remains excepting Puerto Rico and the Philippine islands, and it is by no means certain that by the time the present war shall have ended the Spanish flag will not have ceased to wave over those places, sole relics as they now are of a past glory.

Senor Sagasta some time ago, when questioned as to the number of men he could put into the field, said that on a pinch the Spanish government could muster 800,000 able to bear arms. It has been computed that the United States by a great though by no means extraordinary effort could, if it were necessary, oppose these with an army of 10,000,000 men.

Those who are in a position to know declare that for all purposes of warfare 5,000,000 are as good as 500,000. That is to say, no body of troops could be gathered together which could successfully oppose a compact army of 5,000,000 properly officered and disciplined.

Without any desire to appear vainglorious it may therefore be stated that with reference to any nation in the world or any possible offensive alliance of nations the United States is invincible provided she be the attacked party. If that statement be true, it would appear that the possibility of Spain's success in the present war is about as remote as anything could well be in this world.

We have the men and the money, and we also have the officers, who will be recruited for any auxiliary troops which may be needed from the ranks of those who served in the Confederate and Union armies during the civil war, to say nothing of the hundreds of thousands of men who have done their time in the militia organizations of the various states. For example, our national guardsmen have had so much general training that even the privates will make capable minor officers, such as sergeants and lieutenants, to inspect the drill and effectively command the men who may enlist as volunteers. There are more general officers in the regular army than are actually needed for the number of men. The first class at West Point has just been graduated, and from that supply may be drawn officers to have general supervision of the volunteer forces. That we shall have then a sufficient number of competent military directors is assured, and there are many more among the surviving 300,000 members of the G. A. R. who would again bring their experience into the ranks, while a host of Confederate veterans are anxious to bear arms under the folds of Old Glory.

The organization of the army is little understood by the average individual. To the layman a company and a division represent vagueness about the same thing when in reality they are as far apart as the poles.

A regiment of infantry is properly 12 companies of 100 men each, or 1,305 soldiers (including the officers, 1,042 men). But while this is the strict intent of a full complement it is seldom realized, and a regiment from various causes is likely to number anywhere from 700 to 1,100 men. In time of war its ranks are naturally depleted, and sometimes, when it is impossible to keep up the desired quota by repeated enlistments, two weakened bodies are consolidated, and the combination is known by the name of one of the former organizations, or it may be given an entirely new designation.

The regular United States army today consists of 10 regiments of cavalry, 7 regiments of artillery and 25 regiments of infantry—that is, supposed, a body of 42,000 men. But as there are only about 27,000 soldiers some of the regiments are really nothing more than battalions of from four to eight companies. The maximum number in either a cavalry or artillery regiment is 12 companies of 158 each, or 1,900 men. The distinguishing marks on the chevrons are white for infantry, red for artillery and yellow for cavalry. The corps insignia, worn on the caps, are crossed muskets for the first, crossed cannon for the second and crossed sabers for the third. The uniform is blue, no matter how it may be ornamented and embellished.

The United States has additionally a militia force of 115,627 and 10,000,000 more available fighting men.

President William McKinley is commander in chief of the army, while the general commanding is the senior major general, Nelson A. Miles. There are two other major generals and six brigadier generals. The eight army departments in the United States are controlled by the following general officers: Department of California, Brigadier General W. R. Shafter; department of the Colorado, Brigadier General E. S. Otis; department of the Columbia, Brigadier General H. C. Merriam; department of Dakota, Brigadier General J. F. Wade; department of the east, Major General Wesley Merritt; department of the lakes, Major General J. R. Brooke; department of the Missouri, Brigadier General J. J. Coppinger; department of the gulf, Brigadier General W. M. Graham.

The officers in the army are a higher class than those in the navy, the graduate from Annapolis receiving $950 per annum, while the second lieutenant who has just left West Point is paid from $1,400 to $1,500 a year. To the next grade in the navy, ensign, is attached a maximum stipend of from $1,200 to $1,400, while the first lieutenant in the army receives from $1,500 to $1,600, and so on to the highest rank, where the rear admiral is given $6,000, while the major general has an annual salary of $7,500.

A better class of men generally enlist in the army because there is more independence, a freedom from such cramped quarters as those on shipboard. Then, too, there is the additional incentive of a comparatively easy method of rising from the ranks and becoming a second lieutenant by passing a prescribed examination.

The sailor has no such opportunity offered him. He may first become a petty officer, such as boatswain's mate, master at arms, etc., with a small increase in his pay, and there is the possibility of his even rising to the dignity of a warrant officer, but he can never go any higher.

Our army is supplied with the Krag-Jorgensen rifle, and the revolvers of the soldiers are of 38 caliber instead of the antique 42 caliber of the Colt and other types. The old fashioned heavy bayonet was exchanged five years ago for the smaller bayonet of the knife pattern. These improvements were chiefly for the purpose of rendering the fighting man's equipment lighter, so that he might be able to carry the greatest possible quantity of ammunition. In these days of rapid firing weapons the most important object is to have the warrior provided with the greatest practicable number of cartridges. Even such trifling accoutrements as buckles and belt plates are of less weight than formerly, and as the bullets are somewhat smaller the cartridge belt will hold 120 rounds instead of the old time 40.

The work laid out for the infantryman, the cavalryman and the artillerist is naturally very well understood, but not so that of the engineer corps.

The duties of a military engineer are to aid in every way in bringing the army face to face with the enemy and then to start the fighting. He must be equally expert with the hammer, the spade and the rifle. He plans and builds fortifications, indicates the location where the guns shall be placed and is ready also to handle them in the fight if necessary. Many great military chieftains have been engineers. Our engineer corps are carpenters, bridge builders, electricians, sappers and miners and withal as well drilled a body of soldiers as any army can boast. John M. Wilson is the chief of engineers, with the brevet rank of brigadier general.

One unique feature of the military service of the United States has been the army pack train, which has been of great use in the west and is practically certain to be a feature of our offensive operations in Cuba. In this the men and mules are well trained and equipped and are sent to the various commands when required. Although part of the army, the men are civilians and are not required to enlist. Their wages are $30 a month. It requires six months' training to make a fairly good packer of a green hand and several years to make him an expert. Only able-bodied men are hired, none weighing less than 150 pounds, and every applicant must be able to lift 200 pounds to the level of his chin. He does not wear a uniform, but only a modification of a cowboy's costume.

The lot of the private soldier is not an unpleasant one. In times of peace he works only about four hours a day for his board and clothes and $13 a month, the monthly cash stipend increasing annually until after five years it is $16 a month. The cavalryman must not only attend to his equipments, but also give proper attention to his horse.

The following is the ordinary daily routine of a soldier's life:

Reveille—Winter, 6:30 a. m.; summer, 5:45 a. m.
Breakfast—Winter, 7 a. m.; summer, 6 a. m.
Fatigue—7 a. m.
Drill—8 a. m.
Dress Parade—5 a. m.
Guard Mounting—9:30 a. m.
Drill—10 a. m.
Dinner—12 m.
School—Gunners' school, if in artillery, 1 p. m.
Retreat—Sunset.
Supper—Immediately after retreat.
Tattoo—9 p. m.
Taps—10 p. m.

While all branches of the service are obliged to be "spick and span," the cavalry are a particularly brilliant looking set of fellows. Notwithstanding the decline of the horse through the popularity of the bicycle and electric cars, Uncle Sam requires a certain quota of good cavalry steeds yearly. Horses have always been indispensable in battle, and it would require some invention possessing an automatic action little short of marvelous to replace them satisfactorily.

Every large breeder of fine horses incidentally keeps the United States cavalry service in view, for it is always possible that he will find a purchaser for much of his stock which falls below the required standard for his own purposes. A horse that is useless for breeding and not fast enough for a trotter or racer may yet be eminently fitted for the cavalry.

As at present constituted the service needs about 700 new horses every year, being one-tenth of the 7,000 used in active duty. When the quartermaster goes into the field to select his steeds, he is delinged with offers of fine animals. There are trotters in whose veins courses the noblest blood of the leading track stars of a past generation; sleek, well formed creatures whose slender, rounded limbs and intelligent eyes and gracefully curved necks betray their Arabian ancestry. Only a certain type, however, is purchased. The animal must be gentle and free from all vicious habits and a fair, nimble trotter. Even the mouth must be moderately sensitive and not so hardened to the bit that a rider could not turn him without running into a stone wall. White horses have been used, but they are not desired. The object is to obtain as nearly as possible a uniformity of color. Sorrel, black and bay are preferred. Every animal must be a gelding, from 15 to 16 hands high and weighing from 950 to 1,150 pounds. Horse and master soon become fast friends, and the docile, affectionate beast readily learns to love his temporary owner. Sometimes the soldiers get choice animals, and after years of training and close association their companionship is almost human.

Buffalo Bill (Colonel W. F. Cody) says we have the finest cavalry force on earth, and he is an authority from experience and observation.

In the artillery the recruit's advancement is in proportion to the ability he displays. After learning how to handle a musket he is instructed in the art of manipulating fieldpieces. Then by degrees he is taught how to work mortar batteries, siege guns, the modern 8, 10 and 12 inch rifles and magazines and the Gatling, Maxim, Hotchkiss and other fieldpieces. In a few months a man of ordinary intelligence is ready for active service at any of the great seacoast fortifications or on the field of battle.

To become skilled artillerists men are required to possess some knowledge of arithmetic, they must know how to read barometers and thermometers and must also have some information regarding the force and effect of the velocity of the wind. This detail enters into the sighting and firing of heavy ordnance.

There are today in the ranks many very bright men who enlisted as privates and who by industry and perseverance have become experts in the handling of the great modern guns. Some of them are still in the ranks, but they will soon be promoted to the grade of noncommissioned officers.

Discipline in the army is not so severe as is imagined, although in rare instances martinets have rendered miserable the lives of some of the enlisted men in their command. The relations between officers and privates are, as a rule, of the most friendly nature. Social intercourse is necessarily impossible. In the volunteer forces there is of course more freedom of speech between the rank and the file.

Athletic sports have been widely encouraged in recent years, and at nearly every army post there has been a football team or a baseball nine. In fine weather the afternoon is generally devoted to sports. If the garrison or camp be near a town, many of the men visit it, being given passes to do so. One is never allotted to a soldier, however, unless his record is good, the stoppage of pass privileges resting with the captain and forming a powerful lever in favor of discipline.

There were a large number of foreigners, soldiers of fortune, in the army during the civil war, several noblemen from European countries holding commissions and serving as aids to the commanding generals, but today the ranks are a good representation of native born Americans, and all must by law be citizens.

General Miles has for some time been contemplating important changes in the army uniform. At a White House reception only a short time prior to the outbreak of hostilities with Spain he appeared in a gorgeous new tunic of his own design, literally adorned with gold lace, and wearing a sash of alternate yellow and gold stripes. The most remarkable feature of the uniform, however, was not its splendor of the facings, but the prominence of the oak leaf and acorn decorations, a curious fact, as they are supposed to be distinctive military emblems of the British crown. General Miles nevertheless intimated that he was going to take the best features of every other nation's dress regulations and incorporate them into his new system for the clothing of the American army.

All that is left of the Spanish army of 200,000 men sent to Cuba since 1895 are 20,000 regulars, and there, with the same 30,000 regulars, a total of 150,000, have controlled only the seaports and strongholds and garrisons in the interior. The open country from east to west is in the hands of the insurgents. The province of Pinar del Rio, at the extreme west, is a Cuban stronghold, the insurgents there, under command of Generals Delgado and Duesa, holding the long and impregnable chain of mountains extending through the province. In the provinces of Matanzas and Havana are about 5,000 insurgents. The fortified towns are nearer to one another in these two districts, the Spanish forces more numerous and the Cubans the weakest, but the latter have always been able to keep up a lively guerilla warfare, raiding almost weekly the larger towns and making dashes into the suburbs of Havana. Although they lost their brilliant leader Aranguren a short time ago, there is still the brave commanders Generals Estes Court, Alejandro Rodriguez and Rafael de Cardenas and Colonels Davalos, Collazo and others.

The Cuban commander in chief, General Maximo Gomez, controls the central portion of the island, in the province of Santa Clara, with 10,000 men, and is associated with Generals Alvarez, Carrillo and Montagudo. He and General Calixto Garcia, who, with his subordinates, Jose Wahl and Lopez Leyzac, controls the eastern end of the island in the provinces of Santiago de Cuba and Puerto Principe, have been able to win notable victories against some of the best military leaders of the Castilian kingdom, as evidenced by the late defeat of General Pando in Santiago de Cuba, at the mouth of the Cauto river, and of General Jimenez Castellanos at La Esperanza, within sight of the city of Puerto Principe.

In these provinces the Cubans are stronger than in any other section, having fully 20,000 well armed men plentifully provided with ammunition, the sequence of the numerous successful filibustering expeditions.

The rush of the navy, or at least that part of it known as the north Atlantic squadron, on Havana was amazing to the people of the United States who expecting war, had still considered that there would be 24 hours' notification to them of the advance.

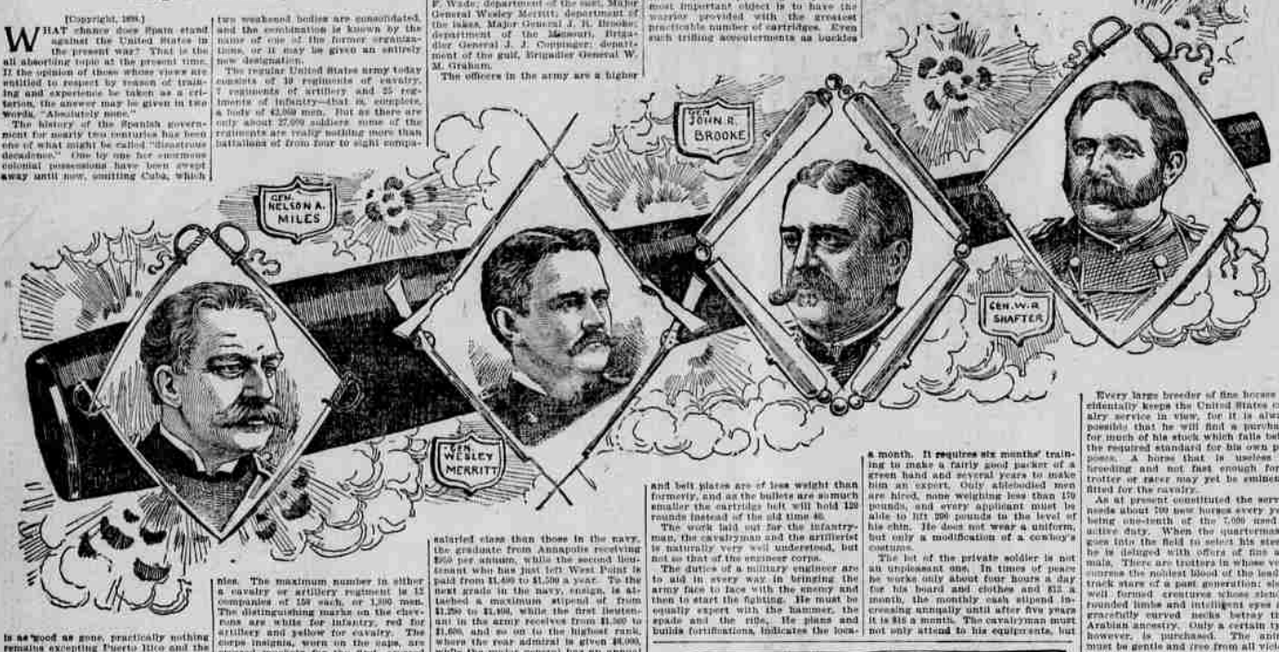
The fleet under Captain William T. Sampson, who was some time ago given the highest relative rank and his successor designated as rear admiral commanding, while investing Havana at the same time holds open the Florida straits for the undisturbed transportation of supplies and troops to the island and for convoyance of more soldiers as they are needed. A part of the naval flotilla also guards the gulf to the west of Havana for a similar purpose. The fleet co-operated with the land forces from the moment they landed in Cuba, so that they both simultaneously menaced the capital city.

It was from the beginning the army plan to unite with the forces of Gomez and Garcia troops to be sent to join those revolutionary bodies in Puerto Principe or Santa Clara.

The principal object of the invading army has been to form immediately the closest alliance with the insurgent troops. With the establishment of a stable and independent government in free Cuba the army will have no connection. Its task will be to assay the Spaniards out of the island. As I am been understood by the United States government for weeks past, absolute warfare is not essential. The Spanish army there depends upon the provisions imported. Rice, beans and flour come from the mother country. Meat is sent them from Mexico and Florida. The condensed milk they use has been obtained from the United States, with eggs and vegetables from Florida. Every potato is from abroad. On account of the great financial distress in Havana the merchants are not very well supplied with provisions. The country near the towns was laid waste by Weyler, a policy that will result in a bonanza finish, and the gaunt specter of famine stalks throughout the island. This is now being alleviated by cargoes of food from the United States. The reconcentrados, or noncombatants, have been dying of starvation by the thousands because they were not allowed to raise crops on their land, being driven from their homes and forced to abide in the towns. The insurgents, however, have had acres of cultivation of their own where they raised vegetables and corn and stored their cattle, but they would not divide their provisions with the noncombatants, nor would they allow food supplies to be raised by others than themselves, because it was their policy to prevent the Spanish army from obtaining any kind of aid or comfort in the country districts. Consequently the 150,000 Spaniards under arms have depended upon steamers laden with provisions.

The army investment in Cuba will not probably really need to be more than 50,000 men. The president may call for many more volunteers, and the bill authorizing him to ask 400,000 now to come to the defense of their country may eventually be fully utilized by him, but the great majority of the volunteer soldiery, including the militia and several reserves, will be needed for guarding the seaport cities and towns. There is such a great coast line on the Atlantic and gulf shores, with so many accessible spots for landing an armed force, that a great military force will be requisite to insure ordinary protection.

The regular army is in magnificent condition and excellent trim. It has had constant exercise in scouting, fighting Indians, military maneuvers about its western forts, and has had an extensive familiarity with camp life. Both Generals Miles and Merritt are noted Indian fighters. THOMAS H. JAMESON.



Naval Force Landing Under Cover of the Fleet's Fire.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

The Monte da Pieta at Rome, which has existed since 1584, is probably the most ancient pawnbroker's shop in the world. Any person who brings a pledge may borrow from 12 to 28 shillings without paying any interest, but all that is loaned above that sum is paid for at the rate of 2 per cent per annum.

Miss Yates, who enjoyed a brief notoriety as the only woman mayor in the British dominions, still resides in the New Zealand town of Onehunga, of which she was once the chief magistrate. The municipal council has just successfully sued her for nonpayment of rates.

A Boston man, arrested in that city for drunkenness, escaped punishment by informing the magistrate that he had 24 children. After the tribunal had disappeared from the police station it was remembered by the absentminded justice that the prisoner had said that he was but 30 years old.

A relic of Sir David Brewster, the eminent philosopher and scientific writer, has just been presented to the British museum. It is a microscope used by him for over 50 years.

A fact not generally known is that the late James Payn was for some time literary adviser in England to Baron Tauchnitz of Leipsic, a position which gave him great influence over the continental fortunes of his fellow authors.

A lady in New York has recently founded the Roberts memorial scholarship at the Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute at Tuskegee, Ala., in memory of the late President Roberts of Liberia.

Paderewski, the famous pianist, was given an ovation at a recent concert in London. It had been announced that it would be his only appearance this season in that city, and the hall was crowded.

A Moscow paper publishes the results of 350 analyses of Russian wines. Of these only three were pure grape juice, the other 347 being more or less injurious concoctions.

James Anthony Froude insisted on all letters being destroyed that had been addressed to him and left orders that his own letters addressed to his friends should not be divulged after his death.