

ize the crews of our ships, and that the Spaniards are remarkably deficient in these qualities.

#### MOVING ON CUBA.

According to the latest news from the war, the actual movement on Cuba is about to begin. To many it has seemed that this has been delayed too long, but it is safe to say that those who direct the movements of the army and navy know exactly what they are doing, and that the actual invasion of the island will take place at the right time. Undoubtedly this means for a short time some further suffering among the poor wretches that are concentrated within the Spanish cities of refuge—perhaps the massacre of some Cubans who are naturalized Americans and unable to get away and place themselves under the protection of the insurgents; some more helpless old men, women and children will undoubtedly be sacrificed under the wheels of the modern Juggernaut of Spanish cruelty, but this cannot be helped. The Cuban people will have to suffer this last, sharp pang, and then liberty. The planting of the Stars and Stripes upon Cuban soil means that tyrants shall oppress it no more. The day of the final account has come. It would not be a bad idea, though, to notify General Campos in a solemn manner that unless his warfare be confined to the limits laid down by civilization, he himself and all his followers may expect nothing but retribution without mercy.

There will undoubtedly be some fighting in Cuba, though it is not believed the Spanish soldiers there are in a position to offer long resistance. It is notorious that 250,000 Spaniards have been unable to subdue the 40,000 insurgents that have opposed them. The fact is easily accounted for. Much of Spain's military strength in Cuba has been on paper alone. Most of the soldiers sent there were conscripts, young boys about fifteen or sixteen years old. The troops were kept at home, in case anything should happen. Moreover, the equipment is described as wretched and the leadership as inefficient. There can consequently be no question of formidable resistance to Uncle Sam's soldiers who come filled with enthusiasm for a good cause, well armed and led by experienced and skilful commanders. Our boys will soon be heard from in Cuba, and when word comes it will thrill the country and the world as did the brief story of the first engagement of the war in the far away Philippines.

#### THE SOLDIERS' BILL OF FARE.

A Chicago exchange remarks that contrary to general belief the soldiers of the regular army in the field live better than many persons in that city. The rations are issued to each 100 men in accordance with the regulations covering the subject and the following is by the war department considered necessary day by day for the boys that serve their country:

"Choice of fresh beef, pork, mutton, bacon, salt beef, dried or pickled fish, 20 ounces; flour or soft bread or hard bread, 18 ounces; baking powder in case flour is drawn, 16-55 of an ounce. For vegetables each may draw from the quartermaster either 2 2-5 ounces of beans or an equal amount of peas, or he may receive 1-35 ounces of hominy or rice. Sixteen ounces of potatoes are allowed each day, or if possible 16 ounces of potatoes and other vegetables mixed, when obtainable. Coffee, the soldiers' stand-by, is allowed to each man at the rate of 13-5 ounces

per day, or he may draw 17-25 ounces of roasted berries or 17-25 ounces of tea. For sweetening his food the soldier is allowed 2-5 ounces of sugar or 16-25 gills of either molasses or cane syrup. The seasoning components of a daily ration are 8-25 of a gill of vinegar, 16-25 of an ounce of salt and 1-25 of an ounce of black pepper. Besides the food allowance each man can draw daily 16-25 of an ounce of soap and 6-25 of an ounce of candles. The latter articles, however, are issued by the week.

When traveling on the cars or steamboats a somewhat different arrangement is made. Then the allowance to each company of 100 men is as follows:

"Bread, 112½ pounds, thirty-three one-pound cans of beef or fifteen three-pound cans of baked beans, eight pounds of roasted coffee and fifteen pounds of sugar. Each traveling soldier is allowed 21 cents per day to buy liquid coffee from the eating stations en route—this, in case large bodies of troops are moving, is paid by the quartermaster for the whole command."

When the boys remain in camp for a long time the rations are issued to the company cooks and prepared under their direction. According to the regulations, some food in excess of the amount used by each company is bought back by the quartermaster at a fixed price and the revenue derived in this way is expended in the purchase of, for instance ice, butter, fruit or other luxuries of the table not otherwise provided for. Then there is the post canteen, another source of revenue to the company funds. Many companies also have billiard and pool tables, the revenue of which goes to the common funds. It is doubtful whether the soldiers of any other country are as well provided for as those of the United States.

#### FLOODS AND FORESTS.

Nearly every summer floods occur in various parts of Utah, although with less regularity and destructiveness than in some other parts of the country. The question whether human power can to some extent regulate, or prevent, floods is one upon which opinions are divided, but it seems to be pretty well settled that forests, although not preventing inundations altogether render them less frequent than in devastated river basins.

In 1892, by royal decree, a commission was ordered in Prussia to make a study of the conditions of the rivers and watersheds specially exposed to floods. The preliminary report was made in 1896 and the commissioners devote one chapter to "measures against flood dangers." The Forester for May quotes the following paragraphs:

"Considering these natural phenomena, which have occurred for centuries, but lately more repeatedly and specially disastrously, the question presses itself upon us whether human power can to some extent alleviate the damage of floods, although it is beyond our power to prevent them.

"The meteorological phenomena which cause the extraordinary increase in the run-off cannot be avoided. It can, however, be well questioned whether there are not measures by which the too rapid confluence of the surface waters may be moderated, the dangers which the discharge of the water-masses in brooks and rivers brings diminished, and the detrimental course of floods in rivers, streams and their valleys abated.

"First consideration deserves above all the much-discussed question of for-

est influence on waterflow. That with extraordinary rains the capacity of the forest to restrain the surface waters finds soon a limit has been confirmed by the investigations of the flood in Silesia of August, 1888, and in the Beskides of June, 1894, which originated in regions of dense forest in excellent condition. On the other hand, experience had at these same localities and others of the North German river systems, show that the change of mountain forest into pasture and field favors in a high degree the rapid confluence of surface waters and causes largely or entirely the washing of the soil from steeper slopes.

"The favorable influence of mountain forests on the retardation of the melting of snows is, to be sure, if the spring temperatures rise suddenly, somewhat diminished, contributes, however, undoubtedly and essentially to the effect—that, for instance, the Silesian mountain streams are generally free from excessive snow-water floods.

"In the plain, on the other hand, the effect of the forest is seemingly confined to a decrease of evaporation and conservation of moisture in the soil during the warm season. Although the condition of our forests, even those of private owners, may be in the main considered satisfactory; it may nevertheless be that in some places reforestation of the upper slopes of mountain valleys, perhaps with simultaneous use of drain ditches, is to be recommended and the threatening deforestation to be prevented, and measures to be taken against neglect and devastation of existing forest growths.

"The construction of reservoirs in the mountains for the purpose of storing floodwaters and of utilizing the same advantageously will undoubtedly not be possible to such an extent that thereby a noticeable influence on the course of floods in main rivers is exercised."

#### A COMPLETE BACKDOWN.

The retreat of the Cape Verde fleet after all the brag and bluster engaged in by the Spanish is almost if not quite ignominious. To make a show of fight and be given an opportunity to get it makes the hesitating and the weak-hearted one who backs down after making such challenge not only an object of ridicule, but of suspicion as well; it looks as if he were either wiser or less courageous than he appears to be, and when such practices are engaged in by a nation claiming to be able to cope successfully with the United States, its effect upon the nations which have been apparently watching for an excuse to do something favorable for the weaker power must be a feeling of gladness that they kept out.

It had begun to be feared that the Spanish flying squadron after sailing westward some distance—until it got fairly well out of sight and communication—had really a strategic movement in view the result of which might entitle them to some credit even though it resulted in disadvantage to us. For instance, what easier than to reach a point a few hundred miles from shore, then make a half wheel and steam off to the south, rounding the Cape of Good Hope, thence through the Indian Ocean and then straight to Manila? Or it might have gone north and shortened the trip somewhat by taking the Suez Canal, and in either event getting to the fighting ground a long time before we could, and proceed to show Dewey that it was "not all skittles and beer for the Americans," as one of the Spanish papers put it. So long was the squadron out of sight that such apprehensions as these were beginning to find a lodg-